

ESDAY, MAY 1992
Best interest
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Festival

Rights group assails Egypt

CAIRO (AP) — A human rights group said Wednesday the use of torture and rape in Egyptian prisons and repression by security forces made 1991 Egypt's worst year for abuses in recent years. The report, released by the unofficial Egyptian Organisation for Human Rights, blamed the record on the Gulf war and the continued use of the emergency law, imposed in 1981 after the assassination of President Anwar Sadat. The law grants the government sweeping power to arrest and detain suspects without due process. "Harming victims and sexual violations as a means of torture — besides the routine methods such as beating, hanging and electrical shocks — have also continued without any real action to investigate complaints," the report said. Officials of the Interior Ministry, which is in charge of law enforcement and prisons, could not be contacted Wednesday for comment. But alleged mistreatment of prisoners was raised Monday in the People's Assembly, Egypt's parliament, and aired on national television Tuesday. Interior Minister Abdul Halim Musa, the country's chief law officer, denied the charges and said human rights watchdog organisations have no official standing. He said they do not deal in specifics.

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Berne asks Libyan diplomats to leave

BERNE (R) — Switzerland said on Wednesday it had banned Libyan Arab Airlines from doing business in the country and had asked Libya's embassy to cut its diplomats to eight from 10. A foreign ministry statement also said Libya had demanded the withdrawal of one member of the four-strong Swiss embassy in Tripoli. Switzerland's action follows imposition of U.N. Security Council sanctions against Libya for its failure to cooperate with inquiries into the bombing of U.S. and French airliners.

Libyans demand sanctions be lifted

TRIPOLI (AP) — Hundreds of Libyans demanded Wednesday in a march on the United Nations' Tripoli offices that international sanctions against their country be lifted. Witnesses said about 500 chanting demonstrators marched peacefully, carrying anti-American, anti-sanctions placards. Among the chants was "Down, down the USA." Steel-helmeted police armed with sticks and holstered pistols ringed the building and prevented the demonstrators from entering to present a petition. There was no violence. Ercan Murat, deputy resident representative of the U.N. Development Programme housed in the building, said no petition was submitted and he did not expect one.

Poland asks Israel to extradite two

WARSAW (R) — Poland asked Israel on Wednesday to extradite two businessmen accused of stealing 4.2 trillion zloties (\$310 million) in the country's biggest financial scandal, a justice ministry spokesman said. He said Boguslaw Baskit and Janusz Gasiorowski fled to Israel last July, shortly before prosecutors accused them of taking the money from the state treasury in a series of complex bank operations exploiting loopholes in Poland's banking system. "Poland has no extradition agreement with Israel but we hope for Tel Aviv's goodwill," spokesman Andrzej Cubala said.

Three killed, one wounded in Algiers

ALGIERS (R) — Algerian police killed three wanted men and seriously wounded one in a gunfight in a central Algiers area on Wednesday. Security sources said police surrounded the group near a junior school in Hamamah and a gunbattle started. There were no immediate details on the identities of the dead men but security forces are hunting the killers of some 50 colleagues, slain since mid-February. Most of those attacks have been blamed on Muslim fundamentalists.

Gunmen attack Georgia bus, kill 30

MOSCOW (AP) — Georgian gunmen opened fire on a bus Wednesday, killing approximately 30 women and children from the separatist enclave of South Ossetia, an official said. Alexander Kavtsadze, chairman of Georgian government's committee on human rights, called the shooting "an open provocation with the purpose of destabilising the situation in South Ossetia and Georgia." South Ossetia is an area inside Georgia that wants to join neighbouring North Ossetia, which is located inside Russia. Hundreds of people have died in fighting there and more than 100,000 Ossetians are refugees in North Ossetia after fleeing their homes.

Egypt sentences 10 to death

SUEZ (R) — An Egyptian court on Wednesday endorsed the death penalty on 10 foreigners found guilty of drug smuggling for the second time in three years. Four Pakistanis, four Sudanese, a Bangladeshi and a Tanzanian were found guilty of trying to smuggle four tonnes of opium, two tonnes of hashish and 300 kilograms of heroin on a boat from Pakistan in 1988. The defendants were sentenced to death in 1989 but appealed and were granted a retrial. Egypt has at least 30 foreigners on death row for drug smuggling.

Jordan rejects international role in restoration of shrines

Kingdom will not accept any infringement on its role as custodian of Jerusalem sites — Sharif

By P.V. Vivekanand
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Jordan rejects any international involvement in the restoration of Islamic shrines in Jerusalem and will not let anyone circumvent the Kingdom's role as

custodian of the holy sites there. Information Minister Mahmoud Sharif said Wednesday. Mr. Sharif, however, also affirmed that Jordan does not believe that there were any "sinister" motivations behind Saudi Arabia's announcement

earlier this month that King Fahd was contributing \$10 million to repair the Al Aqsa and Dome of the Rock mosques in Jerusalem through the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO).

"We'd like to believe that it was an innocent and good gesture; we have no proof to indicate that there are sinister motives behind it," Mr. Sharif told a press conference. "We believe that (the move came) because of the prevailing situation in the Arab World and because of the legacy of the recent (Gulf) war."

Asked a follow-up question "what you would not like to believe," the minister declined comment.

Jordanian-Saudi relations were strained as a result of conflicting stands adopted during the Gulf crisis, sparked by Iraq's invasion of Kuwait in August 1990. Jordan's efforts to smoothen out relations and restore the traditionally strong relations with its southern neighbour have made little headway.

Saudi Arabia, along with other Gulf states, cut off financial assistance to Jordan in retaliation for its refusal to endorse the military option against Iraq to

Jordan explains its stand to UNESCO

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan Wednesday told the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) that plans for projects related to or affecting any of the holy places in the occupied Arab territories should be conducted through the Jordanian government and its responsible agencies which are the sole responsible authority entrusted with such activities.

A message sent to UNESCO Director in Paris Federico Mayor, Acting Prime Minister and Education Minister Thouqan Al Hindawi underlined Jordan's role in all matters related to the Al Aqsa Mosque and the Dome of the Rock and stressed the Jordanian government's historical and legal responsibility towards the Islamic holy places in Jerusalem. "Your concern over the condition of the Al Aqsa Mosque and the Dome of the Rock in Arab Jerusalem and your calls to raise donations for their restoration are appreciated by Jordan, but

(Continued on page 5)

(Continued on page 5)

Palestinians wound undercover soldier

OCCUPIED GAZA (R) — Palestinians in the occupied Gaza Strip shot and wounded at least one Israeli soldier on Tuesday in a clash with an undercover army unit wearing uniforms of Islamic activists, witnesses said.

Soldiers shot and wounded four Palestinians in the melee, residents of Rafah refugee camp in southern Gaza told Reuters.

Israeli undercover units who often dress as Arabs and commandeer Palestinian cars have intensified operations to capture Palestinians in recent months.

They have killed at least 20 Arabs since January. The army said shots were fired at a patrol in Rafah camp but denied a soldier was wounded. It said the Palestinian men had shot and wounded a Palestinian bystander instead. Soldiers shot and wounded two Palestinians in the clash, the army said.

Witnesses said 13 undercover soldiers patrolled Rafah on Tuesday evening disguised in light green uniforms of the Islamic resistance movement Hamas, one of two main groups directing the 4-1/2-year-old Palestinian uprising against Israeli rule.

They carried axes and chains as Hamas activists often do and had their weapons hidden under the uniforms. Palestinians sources said the army found the uniforms — shirts, trousers and face masks — during a raid in Rafah on Monday. Troops have been combing Gaza in search of men who shot dead an Israeli trader on Sunday.

As the unit approached two armed activists in the crowded camp streets, suspicious residents said to them: "There is no God but Allah." They demanded the soldiers repeat the Islamic phrase to force them to speak Arabic.

One soldier answered "We are Arabs" in broken Arabic with an Israeli accent, the witnesses said. People began shouting "army" and Arabs less than 100 metres away fired at the soldiers.

Reinforcements in regular army uniforms arrived quickly and fired at stone throwers, wounding four.

Shortly after the clash ended, masked uprising activists, scrawled graffiti on the camp walls thanking the people who discovered what they called "death squad soldiers in Hamas uniforms."

Israel formally kicks off its parliamentary election race

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — Israel's election campaign formally began Wednesday after a last-minute scramble by the key religious factions to put up a united front.

The contenders for the June 23 election range from the main parties, Likud and Labour, to a cabdrivers' faction, a couple facing extradition to the United States, and a birdseed salesman who wants to get elected so that he can teach candidates how to get elected.

The main race is between Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, whose Labour Party is ahead in opinion polls, capitalising on rising unemployment, the slow pace of

Mideast peace talks and the problems of housing and employing some 400,000 new immigrants. But as the midnight (2100 GMT) deadline approached Tuesday night, attention focused on the Haredim, the ultra-religious Jews whose votes have made or broken coalition governments over the past decade.

Burdened with more candidates than are likely to be elected to parliament, the Agudat Israel and Degel Hatorah factions patched Yahadut Hatorah, or "Torah Judaism," a staggeringly complex slate that entails various resignations and rotations depending on how many parliamentary seats it wins.

At least two other religious parties are likely to win seats. If the election result is as inconclusive as in 1988 the religious parties will be pivotal in forming the next government (see page 2).

The right-wing vote splintered into seven factions, contrasting with the united front put up by three left-wing parties who joined forces under the name Meretz (Vigor).

Dr. Avraham Diskin, Israel Radio's election analyst, predicted that only 12 of the 30 parties would win seats.

Parties need 40,000 votes, or 1.5 per cent of the total electorate, to win a seat in the 120-member Knesset (parliament). The system is proportional, so the more votes won, the more seats

the party gets. Likud had 37 seats to Labour's 38 in the outgoing parliament. Likud governed in coalition with religious and right-wing parties.

Last to register Tuesday night were Rachel and Reuven Manning, who have been ordered extradited to the United States in connection with a bomb that was sent to a California computer firm in 1980. The bomb killed the firm's secretary.

The Mannings, who are associated with ultra-nationalist Jewish groups in Israel, call their party "The State of the Jews." They are appealing to the supreme court against being extradited.

Meanwhile, Housing Minister Ariel Sharon came under attack from the left after he was quoted as telling an election rally that the Likud government is working to bring the estimated 1,600 Jews of Yemen to Israel.

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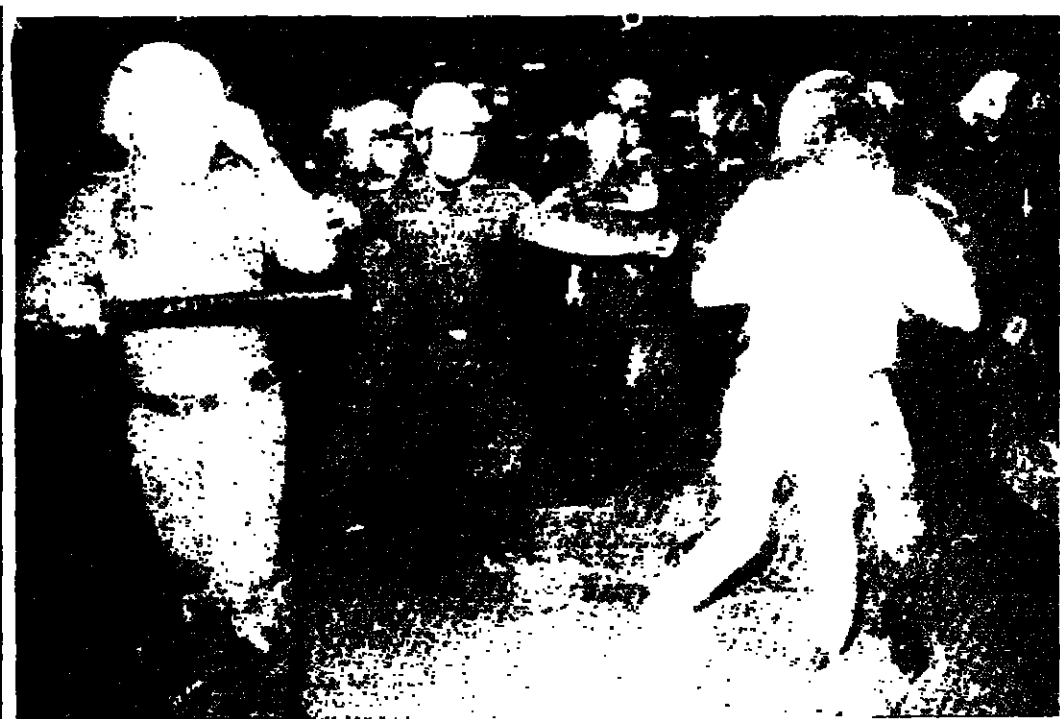
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An injured demonstrator pleads for mercy in Bangkok after he was beaten and arrested by police

End in sight for Thai crisis

BANGKOK (AP) — The nation's revered king intervened Wednesday in Thailand's political crisis, and a humbled Prime Minister Suchinda Kraprayoon promised a nation that turned against him he would back democratic reform.

Mr. Suchinda announced that he was freeing opposition leader Chamlong Srimuang and the thousands of other people arrested since the mass anti-government demonstrations turned violent on Sunday.

A national television broadcast just after midnight showed King Bhumibol Adulyadej lecturing Mr. Suchinda and Mr. Chamlong as they knelt before him at the royal palace. Mr. Suchinda and Mr. Chamlong then addressed the nation and pledged to cooperate on finding a solution to the

anti-government demonstrations during which soldiers have killed at least 400 people and injured another 600.

The king is the country's unifying symbol and has enormous influence among all Thais. At Ramkhamhaeng University, protesters were disappointed that Mr. Suchinda was not resigning but still were satisfied enough with the announcements that they planned to disband their rally when the curfew ends before dawn.

Mr. Suchinda said the government would declare an amnesty for everybody involved in the protests.

The king told them nobody had won and everybody had lost in the confrontation. "I urge you both to turn to each other and seek measures to restore the

country by means of compromise," he said. Mr. Chamlong then appealed for street demonstrators to call off their protests and bring peace back to the country.

Mr. Chamlong was arrested on Monday after troops opened fire on thousands of demonstrators. Protests began after Mr. Suchinda was appointed prime minister on April 7 by a coalition of five pro-military parties that emerged as a parliamentary majority in March election.

Protesters defied a nighttime curfew and roamed through the capital, smashing street lights, setting fires and taunting pursuing soldiers. There was sporadic shooting, and glowing tracer bullets raced over the city.

(Continued on page 5)

Kabul pledges to fight terrorism

KABUL (AP) — Afghanistan's new government on Wednesday pledged to disarm thousands of non-Afghan Islamic radicals living in Afghanistan and said it had no desire to export its Islamic revolution elsewhere.

Deputy Foreign Minister Hamed Karzai told foreign reporters that Afghanistan would not tolerate "foreign military forces" operating inside the country.

"Our policy is one of absolute non-interference and absolute respect in the sovereignty of all of our neighbours," Mr. Karzai said.

Despite the assurances, Western and Middle Eastern diplomats have said they are concerned that extremists will be able to make use of Afghanistan's political chaos to establish bases in the country.

Troops from the former Soviet army, for example, recently closed the border crossing between Afghanistan and Tajikistan because of worries that Mujahideen would seek to fan discontent in Tajikistan's capital, Dushanbe.

Islamic groups such as factions of the Muslim Brotherhood already have close ties with several of the guerrilla factions currently vying for power in Kabul. Radical groups took part in Afghanistan's 14-year civil war that ended last month in the ouster of the Soviet-installed government.

Before he was deposed, President Najibullah warned in January that if guerrillas took power, his country would become a centre for terrorism.

Even if the new government opposes such groups, questions remain about its ability to disarm them. Many of the groups operate in provinces barely under Kabul's control.

Mr. Karzai said that disarming the radicals would not require force.

PLO says it did well by attending multilaterals

TUNIS (Agencies) — Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat has said the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) was right to attend multilateral Middle East talks because they demonstrated that Israel was not interested in peace.

"Israel's decision not to attend separate talks on refugees and economic development in protest against the participation of exiled Palestinians demonstrated it is not interested in peace," Mr. Arafat told Reuters.

The PLO leader, who escaped a plane crash in the Libyan desert six weeks ago, said he went for a routine check-up at a Tunis hospital on Tuesday.

"I'm well," an apparently healthy Arafat said in response to reports that he was seriously ill. Mr. Arafat was talking after chairing a meeting of the PLO Executive Committee Tuesday evening to assess the results of the multilateral contacts on va-

rious topics, part of the overall Middle East peace process.

Mr. Arafat said the participation of diaspora Palestinians alongside those from the Israeli-occupied territories in the refugee talks in Ottawa and economic conference in Brussels represented progress in the peace process.

In Tokyo, a ranking Palestinian official said Wednesday the first working-level talks on environmental issues in the Middle East were "useful and helpful."

No written communiqué was released when the two days ended Tuesday. But among five series of Middle East talks, the Tokyo meeting was the only one attended by both the Palestinians and Israelis that reported points of agreement.

"It's useful and it's helpful to have all the parties speak in front

Australia, Egypt say right of return is negotiable

CAIRO (R) — Egypt and Australia said on Wednesday U.N. Resolution 194 on the Palestinians' right of return should be part of the current Middle East peace process.

"We understand perfectly well that implementing 194 is a very sensitive, very difficult business," Australian Foreign Minister Gareth Evans said.

"We believe that is something that has to be addressed in due course in the course of negotiations, presumably while discussing the refugee issue multilaterally," Mr. Evans told reporters after talks with Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak.

Egyptian Foreign Minister Amr Musa who attended the talks echoed: "The right to return remains a major right to be put on the table, the modalities of which should be negotiated. This is our position ... we cannot prevent the Palestinians from

bringing the issue of 194 to the table," he added.

The United States touched off a row with Israel last week when a State Department spokeswoman said Washington still backed General Assembly Resolution 194 passed in December 1948.

The resolution said Palestinians displaced by Middle East war should be allowed to return to their homes pre-1948 Palestine or should be given compensation if they did not wish to return.

Israel opposes the return of Palestinian refugees on the grounds that it threatens the Jewish state's survival.

In a bid to defuse the row with Israel, the United States said on Monday the resolution was not part of the terms of reference of the Arab-Israeli peace process.

In invitations issued for the

(Continued on page 5)

Israeli election could end in another tie

By Howard Goller
Reuters

TEL AVIV — Israel's Likud and Labour parties hate to admit it in public but an inconclusive election on June 23 could force the two bitter rivals into another "national unity" government.

At odds over Middle East peace policy and settling Jews in occupied Arab territories, the parties officially play down talk of renewing the awkward partnership they formed after the last two elections in 1984 and 1988.

Both parties say publicly they loathe the prospect. Critics nicknamed their last efforts "governments of national paralysis." And conflicts over peace moves topped the last one in 1990, leaving Likud in charge ever since.

Israeli politics are by nature unpredictable and the election campaign is young. But pollsters and pundits say a unity government is still the most likely outcome — and would not necessarily be unproductive.

In the short term, a left-right unity government with broad public support could quicken slow-moving peace talks and improve relations with the United States, Israel's closest ally.

The conventional wisdom is that once in power, Labour leader Yitzhak Rabin would coax Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir's Likud into speeding up the peace of negotiations on a three-year period of interim self-rule for Palestinians in the occupied territories.

"Many people believe that since we are dealing with interim arrangements and not with real concessions, it will be much easier to move the process forward if the Israeli government enjoys a very wide consensus," Akiva Eldar, diplomatic correspondent for the independent daily Haaretz, told Reuters.

Mr. Rabin has promised to grant self-rule within nine months if elected. By agreement with Washington, the more divisive issue of trading land for peace will only come

up three years later. Likud opposes giving up land. Labour would cede some of it. But there is room for consensus: Both accept the 1978 Camp David accords outlining self-rule and could yet compromise on the charged issue of Jewish settlements.

Mr. Shamir is devoted to Jewish settlement in the occupied territories, but he could also — as in past coalitions with Labour — use unity as an excuse with his right-wing supporters for curtailing the drive Washington views as an obstacle to peace.

Mr. Rabin proposes shifting money from settlements to providing for more than 400,000 Jewish immigrants from the former Soviet Union. But he defends settlements on land he views as vital to Israeli security.

"So maybe there will be only four settlements in the West Bank instead of 40," said one right-wing political source. Opinion polls show Mr. Rabin, a war hero who recap-

tured the Labour leadership in February, poses a greater challenge to Likud's 15-year grasp on power than predecessor Shimon Peres.

But veteran pollsters suggest that even with support from its leftist allies in the 120-seat parliament, Mr. Rabin will fall short of a 61-seat majority. Labour and Likud, both hungry for power, would be forced together again.

If a unity government should ultimately crumble, there are precedents for short-term achievements. Their 1984 coalition had three successes within two years.

It halted triple-digit inflation, withdrew Israeli troops from Lebanon and revived relations with Egypt, the only Arab state to make peace with Israel.

No matter how protected the campaign may be, it cannot compare to the wheeling and dealing which invariably follow the election.

No party has won outright in all of Israel's 44 years. A coal-

ition is inevitable, as are weeks of courting smaller parties of the left, the right and Jewish religious blocs.

Polls suggest that if the election were held now, President Chaim Herzog would give Mr. Rabin, as head of the biggest party, the first chance to form a government.

It remains to be seen whether the results would be so close as to force another "rotation" agreement, as in 1984, with Mr. Rabin and Mr. Shamir taking turns as prime minister.

The two men share a concern for security and have cooperated before. In past unity governments, Mr. Shamir worked far better with Mr. Rabin as defence minister than with the more dovish Peres.

Mr. Rabin was architect of an iron-fist policy to battle the Palestinian revolt and conceived a 1989 peace initiative, envisaging Palestinian elections, which bears the name of Mr. Shamir, prime minister at the time.

Kuwait accuses U.S. team of meddling

KUWAIT (Agencies) — The interior minister, in remarks published Wednesday, accused an American delegation affiliated with the Republican Party of interfering in Kuwait's internal affairs by trying to run a seminar on political campaigns and attending discussion sessions in private homes.

"It is unacceptable for the members of the delegation to visit Kuwaiti dignitaries and find out what goes on in them," Interior Minister Sheikh Ahmad Al Sabah was quoted as saying by the daily newspaper Al-Sayassah.

Diwanis are nightly discussion sessions and are generally open to anyone the host cares to invite. They are the most open forums for government critics.

Sheikh Ahmad said the University Graduates' Society, which had invited the delegation, had been instructed to keep it from interfering in Kuwait's internal affairs by managing and evaluating election campaigns.

"The invitation is a violation of the laws and regulations of the country," the minister said.

The graduates' society issued a statement saying the order violated the freedom to assemble guaranteed in Kuwait's constitution.

The Interior Ministry waited until a day before the seminar was to start Monday and the delegation from the International Republican Institute (IRI) had already arrived before denying permission for the meeting. No reason was given at the time.

"We are disappointed by this action," said a spokesman for the U.S. embassy.

A similar workshop on the nuts and bolts of organising a campaign — polling, direct mailing, advertising, etc. — was run by the IRI in February. They obtained visas from the Kuwaiti embassy in Washington for a second round due to interest among potential candidates for October's parliamentary elections.

They will be the first elections since the August 1990 Iraqi invasion and since parliament was disbanded in 1986 for harshly criticising ministers from the ruling family.

The February workshop was attended by both opposition members and government supporters, including a minister and members of the ruling Al Sabah family, said Margaret Thompson, vice-president of the IRI. The IRI is a private institution but receives some federal funding for its work.

"If the government wants the international community to believe that the October elections are going to be fair, its certainly strange to prevent this kind of seminar," Mr. Thompson said.

The February event was opened by Rep. Robert Lagomarcino, a California Republican, who read out letters from both President George Bush and Secretary of State James Baker expressing support for the democratic process in Kuwait.

The Kuwaiti government also refused permission for an opposition convention scheduled for June 1-3.

In a May 11 letter denying permission for the event, Kuwait Municipal Governor Sheikh Ali Abdullah Al Sabah said the convention was too long and should not be held in a public place.

"They want to deal with us as a non-democratic society," said opposition leader Mubarak Duella, a former member of parliament.

MIDDLE EAST NEWS IN BRIEF

U.N. envoy due in Mogadishu next week

UNITED NATIONS (R) — The U.N. special envoy for Somalia, Mohammed Sahnoun, is treating for the civil war-torn country next week, a U.N. spokeswoman said. A shaky ceasefire has been in effect in Mogadishu since early March between rival factions of the United Somali Congress (USC) headed by self-styled President Ali Mahdi Mohammed and General Mohammed Farah Aided. The fighting has reduced the country to chaos and hundreds of thousands of people face starvation. Gen. Sahnoun, who has served as Algeria's ambassador to the United Nations and to a number of capitals, was appointed last month after the Security Council approved the dispatch of 50 ceasefire observers. The U.N. spokeswoman said he would hold talks in Paris with humanitarian aid officials and then confer in Geneva with the World Health Organisation, the International Committee of the Red Cross and the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees. Mr. Sahnoun is due in Mogadishu in about a week for talks with the rival leaders and will also visit the south of the country, where fighting is continuing. The spokeswoman said the 50 U.N. observers authorised by the Security Council had not yet been sent because of what she called "technical problems with one of the parties."

Gunmen wound circus players in Kuwait

KUWAIT (R) — Gunmen wounded two Romanian circus players in a machinegun attack on their bus in Kuwait, local newspapers said on Wednesday. They said the two were hit by flying glass on Tuesday night when four gunmen attacked the bus carrying 20 Romanian circus players. It was not clear who was behind the attack. The papers said one of the circus tents was set on fire last week. It was the third attack this month in Kuwait where security has been tightened to curb surging violence. Earlier this month an explosion rocked the home of a university dean. An actor was shot at in another attack. No one was hurt and no group has claimed responsibility. Crown Prince and Prime Minister Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah Al Sabah said last week the violence had "evil aims to destabilise the security, foment dissension and fragment our national unity." The violence has sparked renewed calls for the collection of weapons held by Kuwaitis — many seized from Iraqi troops after they were forced to end a seven-month occupation of Kuwait last year. Many Kuwaitis have ignored government calls to surrender their weapons.

Floods cause heavy damage in Iran

NICOSIA (R) — Floods in Iran's cotton-growing Gorgan Plain near the Caspian Sea have caused damage estimated at more than 10 billion rials (\$7 million), Tehran Radio reported quoting officials in the area. Two rivers burst their banks after heavy rain in the past week, destroying 110,000 hectares of farmland and flooding the town of Aq Qolla, which has a population of 20,000, the radio said. The fertile Gorgan Plain, inhabited mostly by ethnic Turkmen near the southeastern coast of the Caspian Sea, is Iran's main cotton growing area. It also produces wheat, fruits and other crops. The radio said 10,000 buildings had been destroyed and 4,000 head of cattle killed. It did not report any human casualties. It said the 10-billion-rial estimate included damage to farmland, buildings, roads, bridges and dykes. Army, police and revolutionary guard units joined other teams digging canals to drain the water which also engulfed 30 villages, it added. Rescuers used boats and helicopters to reach stranded villagers.

Moroccan union official jailed

RABAT (R) — A Moroccan trade union official was jailed for five years when convicted of insulting King Hassan, union sources said on Tuesday. Driss Laghimi, regional secretary of the General Union of Moroccan Workers (UGTM) in the farming town of Sidi Slimane north-east of Rabat, was jailed on Monday after making remarks in public about the king. The nationalist opposition leftist Party said in a statement the charges were "a fallacious accusation" and a "premeditated, repressive and provocative act." The UGTM is allied to the Istiqlal Party and Mr. Laghimi is a member of the party's bureau in Sidi Slimane.

German jailed in Cyprus for illegal entry

NICOSIA (R) — A German sea-captain, accused of entering the Turkish-held port of Famagusta nearly four years ago, was jailed for one month, police said on Tuesday. "Hans Lothar, 48, from Germany was sentenced to one month in prison by the Limassol district court on Tuesday for entering an illegal port," a police spokesman told Reuters. He said Mr. Lothar sailed to Famagusta in the northeast of the island in August 1988. The Cyprus government considers all ports and airports in the Turkish-held north illegal ports of entry. Mr. Lothar was arrested on arrival at the Limassol port on a different ship on Monday, the spokesman said. Cyprus has been divided since 1974 when Turkish troops seized the northern third in the wake of a short-lived coup in Nicosia backed by the military junta then ruling Greece.

Series of quakes jolt Yemeni town

NICOSIA (R) — Several tremors hit Yemen's Al Udain region, south of Sanaa, in the past few days, causing injuries and damage, the Yemeni media reported. Radio Sanaa said late on Tuesday an earthquake, measuring between three and 4.5 on the Richter Scale, hit Al Udain in the early hours of the morning. The radio said 30 people were injured. The same area, in the province of Ibb, 230 kilometres south of the capital, was jolted on Monday by nine tremors which injured five people and destroyed 20 houses, the radio said. The Yemeni authorities provided emergency aid for the victims as well shelter for those who lost their homes.

Libya denies it expelled Kuwait diplomat

NICOSIA (R) — Libya denied on Wednesday that it had asked a Kuwaiti diplomat to leave Tripoli after Kuwait sent home two Libyan diplomats in line with U.N. sanctions. The Arab affair editor of Libya's official news agency JANA denied Sunday's report by the Kuwaiti News Agency (KUNA). "He denied that the Great Jamahiriya (Libya) had even retaliated to Kuwait's decision to expel two Libyan diplomats," JANA said. KUNA on Sunday quoted a Foreign Ministry spokesman as saying the Kuwaiti charge d'affaires in Tripoli had left Libya. But it did not say when or give other details.

Israeli Arabs fail to unite after five-month effort

LAST-MINUTE efforts to forge an Arab unity list between Member of Knesset Abdul Wahab Darawsha, Democratic Arab Party, and MK Mohammad Mian's Progressive list for Peace ended in failure Wednesday after nearly five months of intensive negotiations.

Arab leaders expressed disappointment over the outcome, which they said would split the Arab electorate and result in thousands of votes being wasted. Darawsha, together with a group of independents, submitted their joint list under the name of Darawsha's party to the central elections committee yesterday after the Mian's list rejected an eleventh-hour compromise.

One of the independents, Mohammad Zeidan, who is third on the Democratic Arab Party's list, said they hoped to win at

least four seats in the next Knesset, despite the failure to forge a complete unity list with Mian's party.

The Democratic Arab list is headed by Darawsha, with Nagev lawyer Tuleh Al Sanna in the second spot, Zeidan, chairman of Kafir Manda local council, third, Christian author Hanna Irbihim fourth and Yusuf Rehan elected chairman of the Muslim council in Jaffa in fifth position.

Zeidan, said Rehan was expected to win the backing of the Islamic Movement, which would bring more votes to the Democratic Arab Party.

"We are aiming to win between 80,000 to 100,000 votes, the equivalent of four to five Knesset seats, out of the nearly 400,000 eligible electors in the Arab sector," said Zeidan — The Jerusalem Post.

The 29 parties running for Knesset

Hatikva	Kingdom of Israel
Yad Beyad Ginzlin Ve'otim	Mehedet
Al Ginzlin	Tnuat
Kadima	Telumi
Kahane Hsi	Progressive List for Peace
New Liberal Party	Meretz
De Democracy and Alitya	Labour
Women's	Likud
Law of Nature	Tzipor
National Religious	Shas
Mortgage Victims and Homeless	Geulat Yisrael
Tal Israel Renaissance Movement	Agudat Yisrael — Degel Hatorah
Hadash	Tura Ve'etz Yisrael
Pikanti	Medinat Hayehudim
Democratic Arab	

Egyptian woman goes to court to prove she is alive

CAIRO (AP) — A lawyer for Mrs. Madita Al Sayed went to court Tuesday to prove that she is alive and did not drown in a ferry disaster last December which left 464 people dead or missing.

As far as the government is concerned, Mrs. Sayed died and was buried. An official certificate to that effect was issued. And her family even was offered 55,000 pounds (\$16,616) the ferry company is paying as compensation for each dead passenger.

The result: For the past six months, Mrs. Sayed, a 40-year-old house maid, has been unable to look after her three children's affairs, receive her share of government-subsidised goods or return to her work in Saudi Arabia.

Wrong identification of a body was at the root of her ordeal. "All government offices have refused to cooperate with her," the lawyer, Mustafa Al Wakil, told the Associated Press. "She is very much alive. I think it is a

clear cut case, but the government's lawyer asked for time to study it."

Mrs. Sayed's baggage already was on the Salem Express ferry Dec. 14, at Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, as it readied to start the voyage across the Red Sea to Egypt. At the last minute, however, she was detained and did not board the vessel which sank hours later after hitting a mass of coral reefs. An investigation blamed the disaster on navigational error by the captain.

Only 117 bodies were found and 347 remain missing, presumed drowned. The recovered bodies were bloated and partly decomposed. Mrs. Sayed's grief-stricken family wrongly identified a body as hers, took it home and buried it.

A few days later, Mrs. Sayed returned on another ferry. After the initial shock, her family was overjoyed at her return but then the nightmare began for her.

Ethiopian church rejoices at peace

ADDIS ABABA (R) — Religious leaders in Ethiopia rejoiced at the relative peace that has reigned since dictator Mengistu Haile Mariam fled the country a year ago on Thursday.

"Predictions of widespread bloodshed and anarchy following the downfall of Mengistu's regime proved unfounded and people were soon able to breathe a sigh of relief," said a statement by four archbishops of the Ethiopian Orthodox Church.

Bloodshed, ethnic clashes and tensions between armed groups have gripped Ethiopia in recent months, but the leaders said even this did not compare with the chaos of civil war during the iron-fisted rule of Colonel Mengistu.

In the aftermath of three decades of civil war the country faces a severe economic crisis and a major famine this year.

Col. Mengistu, 49, quit his brutal 15-year rule in disgrace after his 350,000-strong army suffered a series of defeats by northern guerrilla groups. He went into exile in Zimbabwe.

The army officer had clawed his way to power after the 1974 revolution that overthrew Emperor Haile Selassie.

A bloody rule that won him the title of "the Black Stalin" collapsed when weapons and money from the former Soviet Union dried up.

The victorious Ethiopian People's Revolutionary Democratic Front (EPRDF) captured Addis Ababa on May 28, 1991, and set up a transitional government comprising some 30 political groups.

The four archbishops urged Ethiopians not to abuse their newly-earned rights, drawn up the transitional government's constitution. They said the vessel which sank hours later after hitting a mass of coral reefs. An investigation blamed the disaster on navigational error by the captain.

Only 117 bodies were found and 347 remain missing, presumed drowned. The recovered bodies were bloated and partly decomposed. Mrs. Sayed's grief-stricken family wrongly identified a body as hers, took it home and buried it.

A few days later, Mrs. Sayed returned on another ferry. After the initial shock, her family was overjoyed at her return but then the nightmare began for her.

'October surprise' probe said to swing into gear

WASHINGTON (R) — Senate investigators probing whether Republicans tried to win the 1980 presidential election by stalling the release of U.S. hostages in Iran are seeking powers to force reluctant witnesses to testify, congressional sources said.

Several Republicans were reportedly shocked by the request made late on Monday and are expected to try to block a granting of subpoena power, the sources told Reuters on Tuesday.

Republicans fear that investigators may call on some of the party's leading figures to find out what went on in late 1980 when 52 Americans were held captive in Iran and Ronald Reagan mounted an aggressive bid to capture the White House.

"This request has caused quite a stir and some people are very, very unhappy," said a source close to the investigation. "It's election year and the Republicans don't want a great storm up on the (Capitol) Hill."

A spokesman for the probe had no comment when asked about the subpoena request, which sources said was submitted by senators Terry Sanford, a North Carolina Democrat, and Jim Jeffords, a Vermont Republican, chairman and ranking Republican of the Senate Foreign Relations Sub-Committee on Near Eastern and South Asian Affairs.

Their panel is leading the independent Senate probe after Republicans blocked authorisation for a full-scale task force.

Mr. Reagan and President George Bush, who was then Mr. Reagan's vice-presidential running mate, have denied that any bid was made to stall the hostage release in 1980. The crisis paralysed America for 444 days and helped undermine President Jimmy Carter's reelection effort.

The Republicans in 1980 had expected Mr. Carter to pull an "October surprise" and secure the release of the hostages before the election.

Israelis, Lebanese guerrillas fight 12-hour shelling duel

MARIYOUN, Lebanon (Agencies) — Lebanese resistance fighters and Israeli gunners fought a 12-hour shelling duel in South Lebanon overnight, threatening to spark a new wave of all-out violence in the volatile region, police said Wednesday.

Police said one woman was killed and seven other people were wounded in the barrage which targeted 15 southern villages.

Sources at the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) said Israeli gunners and allied militiamen of the South Lebanon Army (SLA) fired 350 rounds of artillery and tank cannon fire into guerrilla terrain during the fighting, which ebbed at 6 a.m. (0300 GMT).

The sources said guerrillas of Hizbollah responded with mortar rounds and nine Soviet-designed Katyusha rockets.

Hizbollah's fire targeted SLA and Israeli positions within Israel's self-proclaimed "security zone" in South Lebanon.

Hostilities escalated after a raid by Hizbollah guerrillas against an SLA outpost between the villages of Alman and Shomarih Tuesday evening.

The 3,000-strong SLA said one of its fighters was killed in the attack and four others were captured by the Hizbollah squad. The prisoners were taken north of the "security zone."

Hizbollah, in a communique

released in Beirut, said four SLA militiamen were killed and four were captured in the attack, carried out to mark the upcoming third anniversary of the death of the late Iranian revolutionary patriarch Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, who died of cancer in June 1989.

Security sources said SLA men dismantled five bombs on roads in the "security zone" as the fighting eased.

SLA-run Voice of the South Radio said Major-General Yitzhak Mordechai, head of Israel's northern command, ordered a state of alert in the "security zone" on Wednesday. It gave no details.

Hizbollah, which already holds eight SLA prisoners, said its fighters also attacked six other SLA posts.

Further north, Israeli warplanes during the night dropped dozens of flares as they flew over the Iqlin Al Tofah and other areas east of the Lebanese coast of Sidon, 40 kilometres south of Beirut.

Hizbollah launched the attacks in the south three days after Lebanese Prime Minister Rashid Al Solh formed a new cabinet which he said would use all means to "liberate" South Lebanon.

An estimated 1,000 Israeli soldiers and the 3,000-strong SLA hold the 15-kilometre deep "security zone."

JORDAN TELEVISION
Tel: 772111-19

PROGRAMME TWO
18:00 Doc: "Sanctaries Sauvages"
18:30 Maguy
19:00 News in French
19:15 Le Cirque
19:30 News in Hebrew
20:00 News in Arabic
20:30 The Simpsons
21:10 N.B.A. match
22:00 News in English
22:30 Movie of the Week: "Cocoon"

PRAYER TIMES
05:59 Fajr
06:50 Sunrise
12:32 Dhuhr
16:13 Asr
19:34 Maghrob
20:00 Isha

CHURCHES
St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swellish Tel. 816740
Assembly of God Church, Tel. 632785
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757
Terrence Church Tel. 622366

Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541
Anglican Church Tel. 625383, Tel. 628543
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 711331
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775261
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751
Assian International Church Tel. 827981, 683236
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 811295
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints Tel. 823624 and 649392
Church of the Nazarene Tel. 675691

WEATHER
Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.
It will be fair in the northern and central regions of the Kingdom. In desert areas, it will be dusty and there will be a chance of light showers of rain. Winds will be northwesterly moderate to fresh. In Aqaba, winds will be northerly fresh and sea choppy.

Min./max. temp.
Amman 9/23
Aqaba 16/28
Dead Sea 7/23
Jordan Valley 12/29

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

Yesterday's high temperature: Amman 24, Aqaba 29. Humidity readings: Amman 27 per cent, Aqaba 27 per cent.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS
NIGHT DUTY
AMMAN:
Dr. Fakhri Bishara 625778
Dr. Khalil Abdo 753392
Dr. Fakhri Abu Teyeh 883880
Dr. Ahmad Othman 785348
Firas pharmacy 661912
Pardous pharmacy 778336
Al Asma pharmacy 637055
Nadwoud pharmacy 626772
Al Salem pharmacy 636730
Yacoub pharmacy 644945
Shamsat pharmacy 637660

EMERGENCIES
Civil Defence Department 661111
Civil Defence Immediate 620341
Reacts 620341
Civil Defence Emergency 199
Ransom Police 192, 621111, 637777
Fire Brigade 829228
Blood Bank 771231
Traffic Police 843402
Police 886390
Public Security Department 630321
Hotel Complaints 630300
Police Complaints 661176
Water and Sewerage 897467
Complaints 787111
Amman Municipality 787111
Complaints 661176
Telephone Information (directory assistance) 121
Overseas Calls 010230
Central Amman Telephone 623101
Abdali Telephone Repairs 661101
Jordan Television 773111

HOSPITALS
AMMAN:
Husni Medical Centre 813813/22
Khaldi Maternity, J. Amn. 642816
Abdali Maternity, J. Amn. 642412
Jabal Amman Maternity 642362
Mallat, J. Amman 636140
Palestine, Shamsat 661174
Shamsat Hospital 661131
University Hospital 845945
Al-Mansour Hospital 667279
The Islamic, Abdali 666127/37
Al-Abi, Abdali 664164/6
Jordan, Al-Madina 771102/3
Al-Banki, J. Amman 891611/75
Army, March 602240/50
Queen Alia Hospital 674155
ZARQA:
Zarqa Gov. Hospital 09798332

FOR THE TRAVELLER
QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) Information department of the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (06)53200-5, where it should always be verified.

ARRIVALS
Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)
16:15 Sanaa (RJ)
16:15 Riyadh (RJ)

DEPARTURES
Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)
07:15 Beirut (RJ)
12:15 Amsterdam, Montreal, Toronto (RJ)
12:30 Rome (RJ)
13:40 Paris (RJ)
13:10 London (RJ)
14:30 Laraca (RJ)
20:45 Cairo (RJ)
22:00 Abu Dhabi (RJ)
22:00 Jeddah (RJ)
22:00 Bahrain, Doha (RJ)
22:00 Dubai, Muscat (RJ)
22:00 Kuala Lumpur, Singapore (RJ)

MARKET PRICES
Upper/lower price in Sls per 100
Apple (red) 700/800
Banana 500/450
Banana (Mukammal) 550/500
Banana 300/250
Banana (small) 320/250
Cabbage 70/30
Carrot 200/150
Cauliflower 280/200
Cucumber (large) 80/40
Cucumber (small) 150/100
Eggplant 150/100
Garlic (green) 400/300
Lemon 350/140
Marrow (large) 100/50
Marrow (small) 170/120
Onion (big) 140/80
Onion (green) 150/100
Oranges 300/250
Peach 400/300
Pepper (hot) 220/170
Pepper (sweet) 228/176
Potato 150/100
Radish 60/40
Sage 60/40
Tomato 270/180

Handwritten signature: J. Al-Sayid

AIDS seminar focuses on preventive measures

By Maha Addasi

Special to the Jordan Times
AMMAN — The number of patients suffering from Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS) in Jordan has reached a record 72 this year, up from 38 in 1989, but measures are being taken to combat the killer disease.

The numbers, which were released at a one-day seminar entitled "The Role of the Voluntary Sector in Preventing the Spread of AIDS," which took place at the Philadelphia Hotel Wednesday, organised by the Ministry of Health in cooperation with the World Health Organisation (WHO), were mentioned along with the need to educate people on the different methods responsible for the spread of this disease.

In an opening speech, Abdul-Jah Al-Khatib, head of the General Union for Voluntary Societies (GUVS), said that the only defence we have against AIDS is increasing people's awareness and educating them about this epidemic disease.

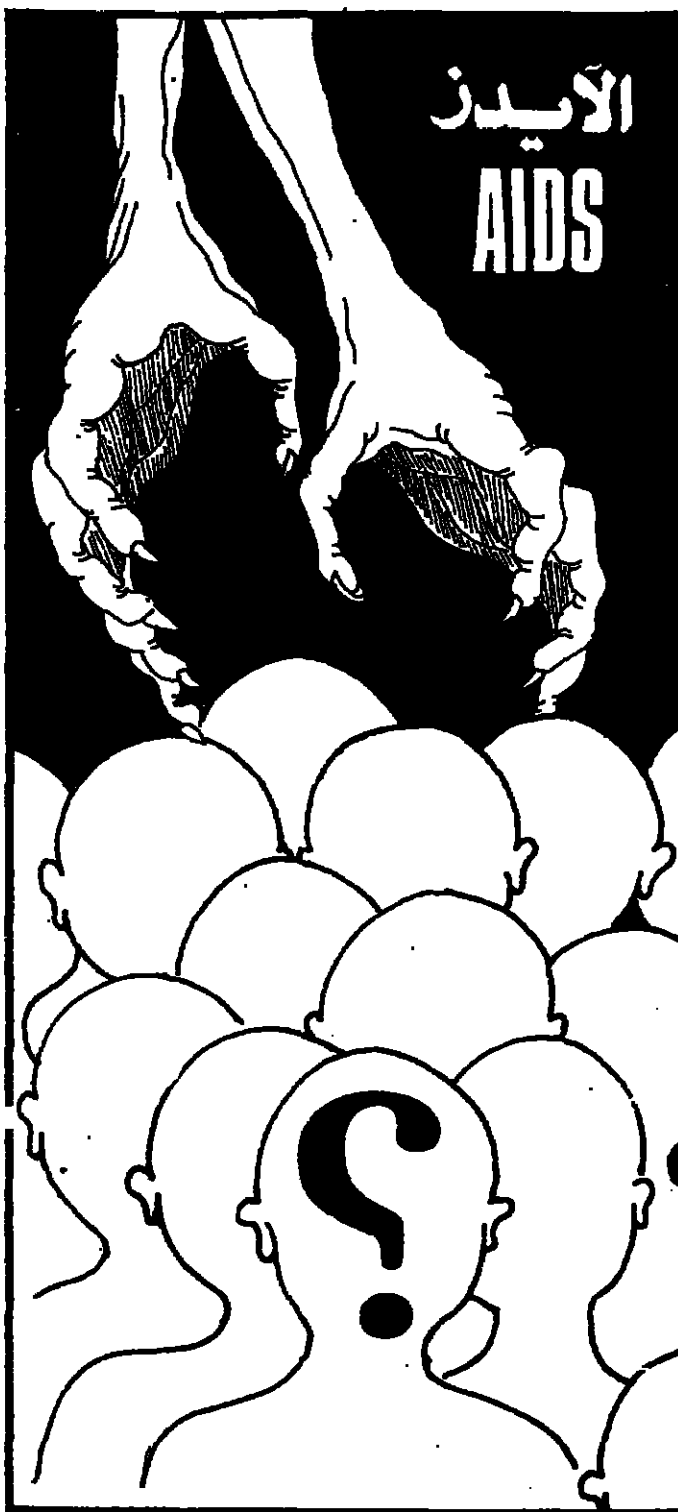
Dr. Al-Khatib said that there are already 52 clinics in Jordan that, in cooperation with the Ministry of Health, have started to increase people's awareness of the methods through which AIDS can be transmitted. "What we suffer from now is the conception that AIDS can only be spread via homosexuality," Dr. Al-Khatib said. "But most of the cases in Jordan are what we can call 'innocent' AIDS, meaning patients acquired the disease from blood transfusions, for example, during surgery abroad."

He said that people need to be made aware of the possible methods of the spread of AIDS which some 52 physicians and 110 nurses have already started to do.

Dr. Al-Khatib also said that people keep away from the person who has AIDS, but that this should not be the approach when dealing with this disease. "We are fighting the disease, not the patient," Dr. Al-Khatib said, adding that in Jordan, AIDS patients are treated in an environment of complete confidentiality.

"Internationally, since 1989, the first day of December of each year is recognised as AIDS Awareness Day because an ounce of prevention is better than a pound of cure," he said.

Dr. Mamoun Maayreh, the Health Ministry's director of primary health care, delegating for Minister of Health Aref Al-Bataineh, said that this disease has spread to all the world's continents, affecting men, women and children alike.



France reaffirms Palestinian rights

AMMAN — French Ambassador to Jordan Denis Bouchard has reaffirmed his country's support for the Palestinian people's right to self-determination and the establishment of an independent state.

The ambassador made the reaffirmation in a lecture delivered to the Rotary Club in Amman, but he noted in a telephone conversation with the Jordan Times later that this has been a traditional position for France all along. This stand has been expressed by the French government on several occasions, he noted.

In his lecture, the ambassador said France could come up with a fresh initiative to settle the Arab-Israeli conflict, should the ongoing peace process fail to achieve fruitful results.

Mr. Bouchard told the Jordan Times that French Foreign Minister Roland Dumas presented this view earlier during his visit to Amman in December of 1991.

France, he said, has been playing a behind-the-scenes role in the current Arab-Israeli peace negotiations and considers itself as a partner in the multilateral negotiations.

Indeed, France has been play-



Denis Bouchard

ing the role on two levels: through the European Community and through its separate contacts with the United States, explained the ambassador.

"France insists on full participation in the multilateral talks and supports the Palestinian rights in their homeland," he added.

In his lecture entitled "United Europe and the World," the ambassador said that France was trying to convince the United States of the need to involve the

Palestinians in all the stages of the peace process. France, he added, has played an active part in the region for the past two decades and is trying to persuade its partners to contribute most effectively to the process of finding a solution to the Palestine problem. "Should the United States fail to force Israel to comply with the aspired peace, no one could," Mr. Bouchard added.

Referring to the situation in Lebanon, he said that France supports the Arab agreement reached at the Saudi town of Taif and he urged the Arab League to implement that agreement.

In his lecture attended by U.S. Ambassador Roger Harrison and other guests, the ambassador spoke about the process of European unification which, he said, will make Europe a major world economic power.

The ambassador denied that his country's foreign policy reflected that of the United States. He said that Paris supports Washington in matters related to the establishment of peace in the Middle East. He also denied that Europe intended to admit Israel as a member of the European Community.

UNICEF to focus on relationship between children, environment at Earth Summit

AMMAN (J.T.) — The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) will conduct intensive activities at the United Nations-sponsored Earth Summit due to open in Brazil next month and will focus the world community's attention on the relationship between children and the environment, according to a UNICEF official at the organisation's regional office in Amman.

According to Touma Al-Hazou, director of information and foreign relations at UNICEF's regional office for the Near East and North Africa, 14 million children die in the developing countries each year not of hunger, drought or natural disasters, but of preventable diseases. In a statement to the Jordan News Agency, Petra, Mr.

Hazou said that four million fatalities occur each year as a result of diarrhoea caused by impure drinking water and polluted food.

UNICEF realises that many countries in the Middle East region suffer from deteriorating environments and polluted water resulting from oil erosion, salinity and shortages in water supplies. Mr. Hazou noted. He said that millions of children in Sudan, Somalia and other African nations are falling victim to hunger and malnutrition due to the lack of food supplies resulting from pollution and the contamination of soil and water.

The majority of world nations are expected to be represented at the Earth Summit due to open in early June in the Brazilian city of Rio de Janeiro.

The conference was organised as an attempt to set a world environmental agenda and the participants are expected to discuss environment-related issues and sign a treaty to combat the potentially harmful rise in the Earth's temperature, known as global warming.

Mr. Hazou said that Jordan, along with most Arab countries, will be represented at the coming conference which bears significance in view of the nature of subjects to be discussed.

The European Community (EC) has suggested stabilising carbon dioxide emissions at 1990 levels by the year 2000 to deal with pollution. The emissions have been cited as a factor in global warming.

Nature society prepares documentary film

By Elia Nasrallah
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The Royal Society for the Conservation of Nature (RSCN) is currently preparing a documentary film about the Kingdom's seven wildlife reserves featuring the different species of animals being raised or kept there and the efforts taken to protect the trees and other fauna and flora found in the country.

The announcement was made by RSCN Secretary-General Maher Abu Jaafar who said that the aerial filming process is now over and crews are now preparing to shoot the ground pictures to complete the documentary in two months time.

Once completed, Mr. Abu Jaafar noted in a statement to the Jordan Times, the documentary will be shown in Jordan and abroad.

The RSCN is a private voluntary organisation with public service status. It was established in 1966 under the patronage of His Majesty King Hussein, the honorary president, and is the only non-governmental organisation in Jordan dedicated to the conservation of nature and natural resources.

The society aims to protect indigenous species and their natural habitat, develop projects to preserve the fauna and flora of Jordan, reintroduce endangered and locally extinct species to their natural habi-

tats, prevent environmental pollution and promote public awareness on environmental issues.

According to Mr. Abu Jaafar, the documentary will depict various aspects of the society's activities and general aspects of the various reserves in different parts of Jordan.

On the other hand, Mr. Abu Jaafar denied that animals which were reported in the local press to have bitten residents of Tafleh and other areas in the south, bordering on the Dana Reserve, noting that wild animals, known to be living in the wildlife around Tafleh, could be responsible.

The report said that several people in the rural regions around the Dana Reserve were bitten by wild animals coming out from the Dana Wildlife Reserve.

The Dana Reserve contains ibex along with other animals living in their natural habitat and the place is guarded by society officials who guard against hunting or damage to the trees and the other forms of nature, said Mr. Abu Jaafar.

Rabid dogs, wolves and foxes known to be inhabiting

the wildlife regions, not only in Tafleh but in other areas, some of them as close as Amman, were reported in the past to have attacked people, but this does not mean that these rabid animals came from the Dana Wildlife Reserve, he said.

Apart from protecting the environment and the endangered species of various animals, the society conducts activities ranging from programmes to protect marine life, including coral reefs in Aqaba to organising committees to help farmers in harvesting the olive crop in cooperation with the Ministry of Education, which provides the students and the Armed Forces, which provide means of transport.

According to Mr. Abu Jaafar, the Dana Reserve of 150 square kilometres in area is located in a scenically beautiful, wooded, mountainous section of the Rift Valley. It is one of the few areas where viable population of larger mammals may survive. He said the mountain gazelle, the ibex and the striped hyena are among the species of animals present at Dana.

Petrol company releases derivatives statistics

AMMAN (Petra) — The Jordan Petroleum Refinery Company sold 1,149,847 metric tonnes of oil in local market derivatives during the first quarter of 1992, according to company sources. The sources said that during the same period last year, the company sold 851,276 metric tonnes of oil derivatives.

Regent, Ramtha delegation discuss recent outbreak

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, met at the Royal Court Wednesday with a delegation representing the public sectors in the northern district of Ramtha and discussed with them the recent events in Irbid where the Ramtha soccer team's game against the Al Faisali team of Amman was stopped due to the violence that erupted on the soccer field.

The Prince called for a spirit of sportsmanship and tolerance to dominate all behaviours, calling on the audience to help protect all the achievements and the sports installations in their area.

Prince Hassan said Jordan was targeted and exposed to numerous forms of pressures and faces many challenges in view of its principled stands vis-a-vis regional and international questions. He called on the Jordanian people to unite their ranks and overcome such pressures and confront the challenges facing their country.

"We must not allow any person to tamper with the security and stability of this country which has been viewed with much appreciation and admiration at the Arab and international levels," the Prince said.

At least 24 people believed to be directly involved in or responsible for hooliganism during the soccer match in Irbid last week have been in custody for one to two weeks.

The violence occurred when Al Faisali team scored its second goal against the host team, Al Ramtha. Spectators were reported to have thrown stones at the Faisali players prompting the referee to stop the match.

The police used tear gas to disperse the rioters who later turned to the stadium installations causing a lot of damage. Some of the spectators and the players clashed with the police and others caused damage to public property outside the stadium.

Government officials here said that investigations were still being

conducted into the case.

Ramtha delegation members delivered addresses before the Regent, voicing their appreciation to the Jordanian leadership and its continued efforts to serve the nation. They also denounced the incident at the Al Hassan Stadium where the match took place.

The speakers pledged that they would shoulder the cost and the task of repairing the damages to public property and the stadium. The speakers also voiced their dismay at the irresponsible actions and behaviour of certain elements who, they said, tried to damage the good and brotherly relations between the two sports teams.

In an advertisement published in the local press Wednesday, Ramtha citizens expressed their dismay at "the campaign of attacks by the press which mounted almost to inflation." The advertisement said that the press magnified the incident and that it was not that significant.

The advertisement called on the Jordan Soccer Federation to review its decision to suspend Al Ramtha soccer team for six months because "such a decision is not in the interest of our beloved country's sports movement or sportsmen."

It also urged that Ramtha citizens be represented in the concerned authorities' investigation of the stadium incidents to explain the causes of these incidents which, according to the advertisement, might be prefabricated.

In their statement, Ramtha citizens said they believed the incident was caused by outsiders.

"We were at pain for what happened to parts of our great monument (Al Hassan Sports City) by a group of people whom we do not know where they came from or what their goal was, but to cause harm to the sports movement in our country and to Al Ramtha club in particular," it said.

U.S., Jordan agree on grant

AMMAN — Ambassador of the United States of America Roger G. Harrison and Minister of Planning Ziad Fariz May 20, 1992 signed an agreement which provides for a grant of approximately \$12 million in feedgrains under the provision of Public Law 416 (B) for the government of Jordan.

The grant includes commodities of 70,000 metric tonnes of sorghum and 30,000 metric tonnes of corn.

Proceeds from the sale of these commodities in Jordan will be allocated to agricultural development programmes as approved by the government of Jordan in cooperation with the U.S. Embassy in Amman.

This is the fourth year that Jordan has received grants of commodities under this programme.

Governor warns of swimming in reservoirs

MADABA (Petra) — Madaba District acting Governor Zeid Fayed Wednesday warned picknickers of the dangers inherent in swimming in small water reservoirs in Al Wala area. He said whirlpools in the area had already caused the death of several people. Mr. Fayed told Petra that despite warning signs, some people still swim in these reservoirs which contain underwater caves to which swimmers are drawn by whirlpools.



The National Music Conservatory/Noor Al Hussein Foundation

and The American Center-Amman

present

APPLE HILL CHAMBER PLAYERS

in concert

Program will include pieces by SCHUBERT, FAURE and others

Sunday, May 24, 1992 - 8:00 p.m.

Al Hassan Bin Talal Auditorium
University of Jordan

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- Safeway, Tel. 685311
- Babiche, Tel. 661322
- The Royal Cultural Center, Tel. 661026
- The American Cultural Center, Tel. 641520
- The National Music Conservatory, Tel. 687620

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

EXHIBITIONS

- Art exhibition by Iraqi artist Hassan Al Bustani at the Housing Bank Gallery.
- Exhibition of paintings by Jordanian artist Mohammad Abu Zreiq at Alia Art Gallery.
- Exhibition of paintings by five Malaysian artists at the National Gallery of Fine Arts, Jabal Lweibdeh.
- Exhibition of paintings by Rida Hus Hus at the French Cultural Centre.
- Plastic art exhibition by Mohammad Bolis and Munira Al Taisiyya at the Orthodox Club.

- Exhibition of embroidery and hand-made items at the Philadelphia Hotel lobby — (8 a.m. - 11 p.m.).
- Exhibition of paintings by Ali Taleb and Rafe' Nasri at Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation Gallery — (10 a.m. - 8 p.m.).

FILM

- Feature film entitled "True Grit" at the American Centre — 7 p.m.

EUROPEAN FILM FESTIVAL

- Spanish film entitled "El Cabezota" (Thursday) and French film entitled "Le Petit Criminel" (Friday) at the Royal Cultural Centre — 8 p.m.

HOME NEWS IN BRIEF

Regent reassured of Majali's health

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan Wednesday visited Field Marshal Habis Al Majali at Al Hussein Medical Centre and was reassured of his health conditions.

Attas lauds Jordan-Yemen ties

SANAA (Petra) — Yemeni Prime Minister Haidar Abu Bakr Al Attas Wednesday described relations between Jordan and Yemen as excellent. He said these relations were always distinguished for clarity and honesty. In an interview published in one of Sanaa's newspapers, Mr. Attas stressed the importance of enhancing Jordanian-Yemeni cooperation and stressed Yemen's keenness to develop its relations with all Arab countries.

Department demands tax deductions

AMMAN (Petra) — The Income Tax Department Wednesday called on all companies, firms and business owners to deduct income and service taxes from their employees' salaries and pay these deductions to the department. The department said that those who do not pay the taxes will have to pay a 1.5 per cent fine for every month of delay.

Non-Jordanian workers must have permits

AMMAN (Petra) — The Ministry of Interior Wednesday called on Jordanian citizens hiring

non-Jordanian workers to obtain work permits for them in accordance with the Residence and Alien Affairs Law and the Labour Law. A statement issued by the ministry said that the ministry will coordinate fully with the Labour Ministry and will take all necessary measures regarding those violating the law. The statement said that these measures will include deporting non-Jordanian workers who do not have the needed work and residence permits.

Education meeting to be held

AMMAN (Petra) — The Education Committee will hold a meeting today (Thursday) under its chairman, acting Prime Minister and Education Minister Thougan Al Hindawi. The committee will discuss regulations regarding students passing or failing their exams and the basis for holding make-up examinations for the year 1992/93, holidays and dates of exams for the coming scholastic year, in addition to the school laboratory draft system. It will also discuss a study on dealing with excellent students, computer centres and holding meetings for educationalists.

Russian delegation departs

AMMAN (Petra) — A delegation representing the parliament of the Russian Federation left Amman Wednesday after a several-day visit to Jordan during which it was received by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent. The delegation held talks with Speaker of the Upper House of Parliament Ahmad Al Lawzi and Lower House of Parliament Speaker Abdul Latif Arabiyat on issues of common interest and ways of enhancing cooperation between Jordan and Russia in parliamentary fields.

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Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation.

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Not one bloc, even when it most counts

THE ANNOUNCEMENT Tuesday by the Arab member of the Israeli Knesset, Abdul Wahab Darawsheh, that all his efforts to have his party join forces with the Progressive Bloc for Peace and Equality during the Israeli general elections in June have failed is a big disappointment to all the Palestinians who had aspired and hoped to have the political parties of the Arabs in Israel forge a unity list. Since the upcoming parliamentary elections in Israel are projected to be a watershed for the history and future of the Middle East, there has been hope from within the ranks of the "Israeli Arabs" as well as in the occupied Palestinian territories and elsewhere in the Arab World that the Arab electorates would at last close ranks and vote as one bloc. Instead, the Palestinians will once again disperse their political strength among several Arab and Israeli political parties and at the end emerge inconsequential to the Israeli body politic on the issue of both the peace process and the quest for equal treatment of all Israeli citizens. So it seems that the same curse that had afflicted the Israeli Arab political scene since they became a sizeable political force has hit them once again this year with no ray of hope that this alarming disunity will change for the better.

In retrospect, the failure of the talks to unite the political currents in the Arab constituencies within Israel reflects the findings of a recent public opinion poll conducted by the Nazareth-based Jaffa Research Centre which, if confirmed, would reveal that the Arabs of Israel are nowhere close to achieving a united front. Samples of this poll-taking tell a vivid story of how much this division is deep-rooted. For example, it was found that only 16 per cent of the Arabs polled would support the establishment of an independent Palestinian state compared to 50 per cent who would prefer maintaining the status quo, meaning the retention of the existing relationship with Israel as is. As how the Arabs would cast their votes in the impending Israeli June elections, 23 per cent expressed support to the Democratic Front for Peace and Equality, 16 per cent to the Democratic Arab Party (which is headed by Mr. Darawsheh), 10 per cent to the Progressive List for Peace and Equality (which is led by Mr. Darawsheh's arch rival Mohammad Miari), 21 per cent to the Israeli Labour Party and about 9 per cent to even the Likud Party. This deep split in Arab vote is clearly not conducive to establishing one predominant Arab bloc and may reflect the Israeli Arab dismay with the overall Arab state of affairs as well as with the internal situations in various Arab countries. Part and parcel of this negative Israeli-Arab perspective could be attributed to the fact that democracy and human rights have yet to develop roots in most of the Arab countries. But whatever the underlying causes, the Arabs of Israel are destined to miss another historic opportunity to determine or even affect the Israeli decision-making process by remaining so woefully divided and their votes so alarmingly scattered.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

SAWT AL SHAAB Arabic daily Wednesday expressed total dismay at Washington's retreat from its declared position of supporting the implementation of U.N. Security Council Resolution 194 of 1948, noting that the U.S. administration seems to be afraid of Israel and the Zionist lobby. The U.S. administration must have regretted an earlier statement that it supports Resolution 194, because that statement had triggered Israel's anger; and this retreat from its declared position served as a blow to all those optimists believing that the U.S. administration was serious about bringing about a lasting peace to the Middle East, said the paper. It is regrettable to say that such open retreat is a clear violation of U.N. resolutions and the international legitimacy and something that should not be condoned by the Arabs and the world community, continued the paper. It said that it seems the U.S. administration is concerned that such a resolutions could prompt Israel to pull out from the peace process, but it also is clear that this administration does not have any respect for the feelings and the positions of the Arab parties involved in the same process. The paper said it is feared now that such a retreat could be repeated by the same U.S. administration vis-a-vis Resolution 242 and 338, upon which the current peace process was founded. Should such developments materialise, the paper said, the whole process would collapse.

A COLUMNIST in Al Ra'i Arabic daily demanded that the Royal Society for the Conservation of Nature (RSCN) take steps to protect human beings from animals being kept and raised at the Dana Wildlife Reserve in southern Jordan. The Dana reserve, next to the town of Tafelch, has been set up on hundreds of square kilometres which should be enough for the wandering of wild animals kept there. Nazih pointed out. The writer said that some of these animals, including the ibex have been going beyond the perimeters of the reserve and that several people reported them biting children in the Dana area. He said that it is true that the reserve was there in order to protect the life of the endangered species of animals, and the RSCN is to be commended on its efforts to safeguard these animals and protect the environment, but the society should take urgent steps to also safeguard the lives of the human beings living around the reserve. The writer said the some of the wild animals ought to be kept away from the neighbouring populated areas and measures should be adopted to protect them and the lives of the people alike.

Islam and democracy — can the modern state function without political parties?

By G.H. Jansen

The writer has been covering the Middle East for British and Indian magazines and newspapers for many years. The following article, which he contributed to the Jordan Times, also appears in the current issue of Middle East International.

In the last week of March King Fahd of Saudi Arabia, in a message of far-reaching importance, declared that democracy is incompatible with Islam and a few days later the Emir of Kuwait said much the same thing.

The Saudi statement was somewhat oblique; democracy was incompatible with Islam, King Fahd said, because it was not suited to society in Saudi Arabia and other traditional societies in the Gulf region because those societies were based on Islam. The king's words were: "Islam is our social, political and economic system and Islamic law is its own comprehensive constitution... comprising social justice, economic justice, the system of rule, the judiciary, everything... The democratic system prevailing in the world does not suit us in this region." Thus there are two levels of incompatibility — the regional and sociological and that of larger political and religious principles. Similarly, the Kuwaiti Emir had said that while Kuwait had chosen the path of democracy, it did not want a democracy transplanted from outside.

Thus, both the Saudi king and the Kuwaiti Emir seemed to suggest that there can be two sorts of democracy — the well-known western style democracy and Islamic democracy. How do they differ? The former — which is what most Muslim people are asking for since it is the version they know most about — consists of a constitution, political parties, free contested elections on the basis of one man one

vote. Protagonists of Islamic democracy may say that with the Koran there is no need of a separate constitution; but this is, perhaps, open to discussion. Where the two types of democracy really diverge is on the issue of political parties, which the Islamists reject because they are divisive of the umma, the body of the Muslim faithful.

Is partyless democracy truly democratic? The recent general election in Iran was an example of partyless democracy

"There are, of course, certain basic Islamic values that should be inherent in an Islamic state. One of these is equality, springing from the equality of all humans before God, which the Muslim umma has successfully embodied in its daily practice. Because of this strong strain of person-to-person equality within the umma, any Islamic state would have to be democratic."

in action. There were two types of approach or attitude to the political and economic issues confronting Iran and the electorate was supposed to know what these were and where the candidates stood vis-a-vis the two approaches. It may be argued that, de facto, this also holds true in the U.S. and the U.K. where there are

two approaches or attitudes and that it is on those broad lines that the people vote. But this is not really good enough because the parties and their candidates in the West do differ on a whole host of particular and important issues.

What then is the need for parties in a democracy, especially in elections? Apart from providing a common rallying point and a separate identification to the candidates — which is precisely what the Islamists object to — they provide candidates with campaign funds, publicity and transport. In Third World elections (of Indian elections it has been said: "He who has the jeep wins.") Without the parties it would simply mean that the richer candidate with larger resources would win in an unfair contest with less well equipped candidates. Thus, partyless elections could negate a really democratic choice. It could also lead to confusion as was evident in the Iranian elections because electors faced with a multiplicity of candidates without identifying labels found it very difficult to decide who to choose.

Partyless Islamic democracy may work, democratically, in a small, compact city state like Kuwait, or some of the other Gulf emirates, where, theoretically, "everybody knows everybody." But what of partyless elections in populous countries like Indonesia or Bangladesh or Egypt? Simply not possible.

However, King Fahd was absolutely right when he said that "the election system is not mentioned within Sharia" for the simple reason that the Koran does not lay down any one particular political system. An Indian Muslim scholar, Jamil Khawaja, has painstakingly worked out that "of about 6,200 verses in the Koran only about 250 are prescriptive in character and of these only about ten deal with politico-economic issues," and that, omitting repetitions,

"only four or five verses may be said to deal specifically with politico-economic issues in the structural or institutional sense."

The best known of the "political prescriptions" is that Muslim community, if there are differences within it, should have recourse to "shura" or consultation which is why, in March, King Fahd announced the creation in Saudi Arabia of a Majlis Al Shura, a consultative council, consisting of 60 officially-nominated members. In a tribal society, as in Afghanistan, a consultative shura was the tribal "jirga" may work — at the tribal level — but the Mujahedeen victors in that country will surely discover that a national "jirga" — if it can ever be convened — will be a prescription for governmental chaos. The Saudi Majlis Al Shura has already come under criticism in Saudi Arabia from moderate reformers who say that it represents only a cosmetic change since real power is retained by the monarch.

So since democracy is not and cannot be incompatible with Koranic Islam, because the Koran does not prescribe any political doctrine, the further question must be asked whether democracy is incompatible with the Islamic fundamentalists with the Koran as its constitution and the Sharia as its legal system. Is such a state incompatible with representative democracy? The answer is, "yes."

Indeed, it is only the fundamentalists who have laid down any detailed structure of what an Islamic state should be, the other believers and reformers having been content to try and bring about an Islamic society of good, righteous, observant Muslims, a society from which would emerge the Islamic state. But taking the easier path, the fundamentalists argue that it is the Islamic state that must bring about an Islamic society, by laying down and enforcing certain rules.

What would be the structure of the fundamentalist Islamic state? It is a wonder to behold how the fundamentalists can take a generally worded, even a vaguely worded, verse from the Koran and then erect on it, in detail, the vast structure of the Islamic state. The person who has done this most thoroughly is the Pakistani theoretician Abu Ala Maududi, the founder of the Jamaat-I-Islami, whose voluminous writings have been in-

hereditary principle in politics, the head of an Islamic state would be an Imam, an unelected leader who somehow emerges from the community because of his pre-eminent Islamic virtues. He rules as "a righteous dictator" but can and should be removed by the umma if he does not.

While most fundamentalist groups reject political parties, the Muslim Brotherhood in Syria and An-Nahda movement in Tunisia and the Iranian Mujahedeen accept political pluralism, though one can have pluralism without democracy. Hassan Al Banna — the founder of the Egyptian Muslim Brotherhood and the father of modern militant Islam — accepted constitutional, representative government, though with some reservations.

For the rest, in the Islamic state on the Maududi model, the prescriptions of the Koran and the Sharia are to be so strictly enforced that Maududi himself said that it could be described as "fascist." He also called his model "theocracy" in which there is "limited popular sovereignty," under the paramountcy of God. Unsurprisingly, only one party would be allowed, the Hizbollah, the party of God, of the True Believers.

All these constructs are an attempt to revive in the modern world the conditions that were obtained in the first Islamic state under Prophet Mohammad in Medina between 622 and 632. And if modern imitations of the Medina state have become coercive nightmares, as in the Islamic republic of Iran, it is impossible, fourteen centuries later, in an age of large nation states to hark back to a "state" which had, perhaps, at most, 20,000 inhabitants.

Actually, the Medina state is as much a bad example as a good example, because, of the four immediate successors to the prophet, the rightly-guided caliphs, three were killed by their opponents.

"While most fundamentalist groups reject political parties, the Muslim Brotherhood in Syria and An-Nahda movement in Tunisia and the Iranian Mujahedeen accept political pluralism, though one can have pluralism without democracy."

fluent across the Muslim World, perhaps undeservedly. There are, of course, certain basic Islamic values that should be inherent in an Islamic state. One of these is equality, springing from the equality of all humans before God, which the Muslim umma has successfully embodied in its daily practice. Because of this strong strain of person-to-person equality within the umma, any Islamic state would have to be democratic; this, in modern populous states, would have to be a representative democracy, which is turn would mean elections and, almost certainly, parties. Since, Islam rejects the

Targeting Saudi Arabia backfires

By Donald Neff

WASHINGTON DC — The disintegrating special relationship between the U.S. and Israel is leaving an eerie media silence about the Middle East. News and editorial opinion about the region have been almost totally muted despite the fundamental changes steadily eroding the relationship. In their place is emerging a form of guerrilla warfare by calculated news leaks to the media aimed at harming Arabs or Israelis, depending on the source.

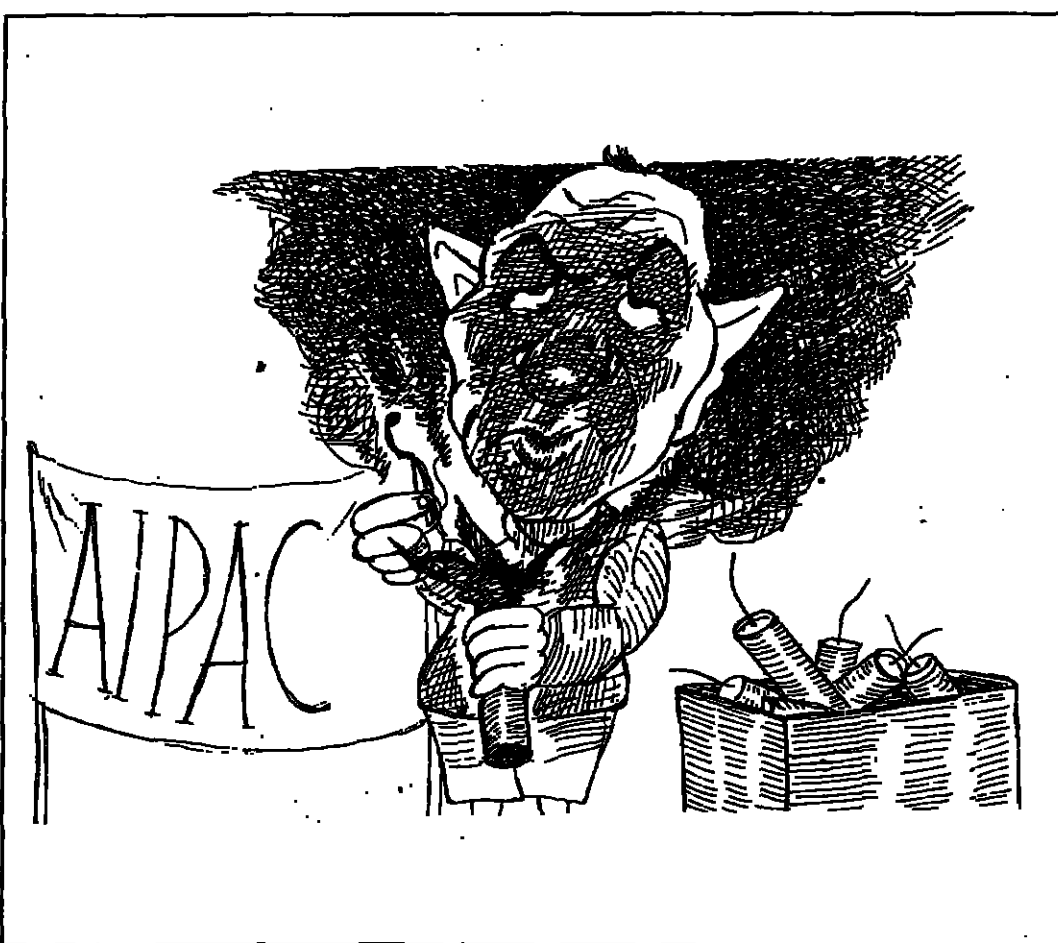
The latest such play targeted Saudi Arabia. It backfired. It started in the Los Angeles Times on April 18 with a gushy story about how the Reagan and Bush administrations conspired with Riyadh to send U.S.-made weapons and military equipment to Bangladesh, Iraq and Syria in violation of American law. The story charged that the White House was aware of the transfers but failed to notify Congress, as required by the Arms Export Control Act. According to the paper, this was part of a covert operation to use Saudi Arabia as a surrogate military supplier to Arab states which Congress barred from directly receiving American equipment.

The story received unusually prominent display, even to the point where New York Times columnist William Safire, the Robert Ludlum of Israeli supporters, darkly warned his readers that the Saudi connection explained why Israel had been targeted by a similar leak in

March about its illegal transfers of U.S. technology. The reason for the charges against Israel, Mr. Safire solemnly declared, was to divert attention from Saudi Arabia's own violations. He went further, charging it was all a conspiracy against Israel led by, no less, President Bush and the Saudi ambassador, Prince Bandar Ben Sultan. In fact, Mr. Safire proclaimed, the administration should be called the BandarBush administration because of the close collusion between Saudi Arabia and America.

All this conspiracy theory made reading as fascinating as Ludlum's latest thriller *The Road to Omaha*. It was also about as factual. The story — and thus Mr. Safire's column — turned out to be completely false in its essentials. The State Department quickly set the record straight by confirming that there had indeed been small transfers by Saudi Arabia. But Saudi Arabia had admitted them and said they were "inadvertent." And, more important, the White House had immediately notified Congress about them. Such notification eliminates the charge that the White House was involved "in an illegal covert operation."

As it turned out, all that was involved in the transfers was one instance of shipping some American bombs to Iraq in 1986 and some trucks and other vehicles to Bangladesh and Syria at the end of Gulf crisis. No advanced technology was involved, and in fact the vehicles given to Bangladesh and Syria were not even



armaments. As a Pentagon official noted: "The only thing you could do, I guess, is run someone over with them."

Readers of *The New York Times* were then treated to the unusual spectacle of another columnist, Leslie H. Gelb, attribut-

ing the whole brouhaha to leakers out to hurt President Bush and to foil a proposed \$5bn sale of 72 advanced F-15 jets to Saudi Ara-

bia. In other words, in this version, the leak was to harm Saudi Arabia rather than Israel.

The F-15 sale

While all this confusion may have left readers of the *New York Times* in a sea of doubt, Mr. Gelb had it about right. Israel has been trying to tar Saudi Arabia more than usual in recent months in order to divert attention away from its own transgressions and to thwart the F-15 sale. Israel succeeded, briefly, in selling the story that it was the Saudis rather than Israel that had transferred Patriot missile technology to China until Defence Secretary Dick Cheney knocked down the story by noting that Saudi Patriots were firmly under control by U.S. troops — while Israel's were not.

As for the proposed F-15 sale, Mr. Bush had decided even before the flawed *Los Angeles Times* story to put it off until after the November presidential elections. It is too much of a political football at election time, as indicated by the fact that 236 of Israel's usual supporters in Congress have already come out against it. As Leslie Gelb concluded: "Meantime, the leakers of the *L.A. Times* story got their just desserts. They planted a phony tale and were found out... In their haste, they lost." He did not add that his Zionist colleague, Mr. Safire also lost whatever credibility he had — Middle East International.

Half a billion more humans suffering

By David Briscoe
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — People living in Mozambique suffer more than any other in the world, and Denmark offers the least oppressive living of 141 countries, according to a five-year analysis of human suffering.

The study by the Population Crisis Committee was released Monday. It lists 83 countries with 73 per cent of the world's population as lands where human suffering is either high or extreme, based on scores in 10 categories of human discomfort.

A similar study in 1987 said 70 per cent of the world's people — half a billion fewer — were suffering.

"The 1992 human suffering index shows that an appalling three-quarters of the world's people live in countries where human suffering is the rule, rather than the exception," said Sharon L. Camp, editor of the study.

Political strife, recession and population growth added to suffering in the five countries where people were worst off: Mozambique, Somalia, Afghanistan, Haiti and Sudan, Ms. Camp said. They are followed by Zaire, Laos, Angola, Guinea and Ethiopia.

The 10 countries with the least human suffering were Denmark, the Netherlands, Belgium, Switzerland, Canada, Norway, Australia, the United States, Germany and Austria. Germany remained in the top 10 despite reunification with its poorer eastern half.

The list was based on scores which researchers acknowledge are somewhat artificial but which they believe most readily measure living conditions.

They include life expectancy, daily per capita calorie supply, percentage of the population with access to clean drinking water, proportion of infant immunisation, rate of secondary school enrollment, gross national product, inflation and number of telephones per 1,000 people.

The Population Crisis Committee is a non-profit private group which does not receive government funding and advocates world population stabilisation.

Measures of political freedom and civil rights were taken from indexes compiled by Freedom House, a nonprofit organisation

that analyses human rights conditions around the world.

Each country is given a score of 1 to 10 in each category, for a possible score of 100. Mozambique received 93 of what amounts to social demerits, while Denmark's score was 1.

The United States scored 5, including one point for a lack of equality under the law. It was the first time the study had included any measure of women's status in society.

Other demerits for the United States were in the categories of inflation, life expectancy and fair election laws.

Ms. Camp said there might be some disagreement with the judgments, but she said the committee tried to use the most objective and complete data available from other

sources. Nearly all countries with populations of more than 1 million were included in the study, accounting for 99 per cent of the world's population.

The former Soviet Union, which ranked 109th, with countries where suffering is moderate, was not divided into the 15 countries which now make up its territory.

Ms. Camp said the next study in 1997 should show some significant changes, particularly in the political and civil rights indexes.

Since most of the other data come from official government sources, there may be lapses in accuracy, said Ms. Camp, noting North Korea's dubious claim of 100 per cent enrollment in secondary schools.

The study is yet another indication of a growing gap between the world's richest and poorest peoples.

"A child born in Mozambique today can expect to live only 48 years and has a one-in-seven chance of dying before his or her first birthday. In contrast, a child born in Denmark will live an average of 75 years and has less than a 1 in 100 chance of dying before age one," Ms. Camp said.

The key to improving world living conditions is in reducing population growth, she said. Denmark is the only country with 0.0 per cent growth, while the study shows that population growth rates generally are highest in countries where people are in the most distress.

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Weekender

May 21, 1992

Published Every Thursday

Wahy Farouk Luqman — a pioneer who made a dream come true

By Ian Wabbob

Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The slim, smiling girl who opened the door to meet her guest was looking too young to have just presented the thesis for her masters degree.

In a fast flow of words she invited me to sit "anywhere". I wanted. I was less at ease than Wahy, (that is her first name), and pretending to be cool. No, not because of her handicap. I wouldn't have even noticed it had I not known. I was only impressed by her accomplishment: the first ever blind student to obtain an M.A. in law in Jordan and the first to present the thesis without any papers, all from memory.

Wahy Farouk Luqman, of Yemeni origin, but a naturalized Saudi citizen, would strike you with her cheerfulness and unbridled energy and enthusiasm. Her strength of character proves to be an exception to the rule that handicapped people draw strength from those around them. "My father said that

my determination helps him be strong too. And I do not always tell them about all my problems; it would only make them sad."

Studying law was the only alternative for Wahy who says that early in school she was very much drawn towards sciences. "I wanted to study something that did not require only reading and memorising. I wanted to do something and law could give me this chance: find ways with cases, be useful."

The B.A. in law was obtained with flying colours. Her degree on the diploma reads "excellent." She admits having studied hard to reach there "because I wanted to be more than mediocre."

The study, at the University of Sana'a, was done through correspondence. "I would only go there for the examinations. The last year, though, I lived there."

Because in Jeddah, where her family lives, there was no possibility to continue studying, Wahy came to Jordan to further her education. "I chose Jordan because it is small, not too much rush or

too many people like Cairo, for example."

After two years and a half, at a graduation ceremony attended by "15 people, family and friends, who had come especially to see me present my dissertation," and many others, Wahy took the stand and decidedly presented her "case."

As a token of appreciation, Chief Chamberlain Prince Ra'd Ben Zeid, who attended the event, presented the pioneering student with a present: a Braille watch.

But all was not a bed of flowers for the bright, restless girl turned lawyer. Wahy, who looks very energetic and who avows not having much patience for slow people and things, has learnt, by having to deal "with people of different temperaments and moods," the virtue of patience.

"At the University of Jordan there are no books for studying law in Braille. I learnt by having things read to me or recorded on tapes. I had to put up with so many different personalities, some

not very pleasant or friendly. I passed through hard times too. But it only taught me to be patient and strong and to control myself."

Most people, she said, were good friends. Her behaviour would make them treat her like the peer she is. "I do not like to be treated different from the next person. Sometimes my friends would say I made them completely forget I was having any problems. A happy family and good friends are very helpful. They always give me a boost."

Now, after all the hard work and effort exerted to compile her dissertation — an interesting research on "exceptional circumstances that emerge after a contract was concluded" — and after a "very happy week with my family," Wahy says she prefers not to think of plans for the future.

"I had so many things to do and I worked so hard that now, with few things left to do, I feel I am living at a very slow pace. I need the rest, but now I feel restless." The idea to go on studying and

obtaining a doctorate "is there, but I want to miss learning," so she will give herself some time off.

She also wants to forget the hardships, the appointments people missed or never showed up for, the cold, snowy days when "I knew my colleagues would study while I was stuck inside, unable to read," the days in the library where angry looks would hush "the person who read for me and I would feel helpless and like crying," the many books she had to read and summarise in only "five lines" without having the advantage of jotting down notes and having to use the services of different people.

Wahy's father, managing editor of the Jeddah-based English daily Arab News and columnist for Al Sharq Al Awsat, seems to be an inspiration for his children. A daughter has followed in his footsteps and is working with her father. The other children have taken other paths, but he closely follows their progress, as he does with Wahy.

"My father says the best

thing for me is to teach in a college. So I have to and want to go on studying. But not right now. I need some time off."

The father, who collected all his columns in a book he dedicated to Wahy, when here for the graduation expressed greatfulness for the patience of the Jordanian professors who helped his daughter accomplish her dream.

But it is a two-way street, and the strong-willed student deserves equal praise.

One big regret Wahy has is not being able to read. "All my life is listening now," says Wahy, who gradually lost her eyesight by the time she was 14 because of an incurable disease. "If I could read, I would spend 24 hours a day doing it."

When her papers are done with, she will go home to Saudi Arabia. "Of course I will come back to Jordan to see my friends and professors," she said with a big smile on her pretty face. Well, good luck, your honour!



Wahy Luqman presents her dissertation

Life after death? The question remains

By Partha S. Banerjee

BANGALORE, India — Radios, she was convinced, had evil spirits hiding inside them. And the lamp that lit up at the press of a button intrigued her too, as did motor vehicles. She rarely stayed out of her room, devoting most of her time to the worship of goddess Durga. "I have no friends in the world except Tara (Durga)," she told a visiting Bengali priest.

Starting in 1974, Uttara Huddar, a part-time college lecturer in the central Indian city of Nagpur began experiencing flashbacks to an earlier life in 19th century Bengal, but this going back in time sometimes lasted up to 40 days. During these episodes, she spoke a slightly archaic form of Bengali instead of her native Marathi, draped her sari in the Bengali fashion and practiced Hindu religious rites typical of Bengal. When she came to, remembering nothing, she dressed in modern garb, spoke her own language and returned to her job.

"It was certainly one of the strangest cases we have investigated," says Satwant Pasricha, whose office at the National Institute of Mental Health and Neurosciences (NIMHANS) in Bangalore, southern India, is stacked with files of over 100 reported cases of reincarnation that she has studied during the past 20 years. The ability to speak a foreign language spontaneously and without instruction is termed xenoglossy, explains Prof. Pasricha who studied reincarnation as the subject of her PhD. "No two cases are quite alike," she says. "Each one is fascinating in itself."

One of the world's leading experts on reincarnation, Prof. Pasricha, 44, became interested in parapsychology in the early 1970s when she was a research assistant at a medical university in Chandigarh, northern India. "You could say I began to take the subject seriously partly because I was very skeptical about paranormal stories," she smiles. Born in Pakistan and fluent in both Hindi and Punjabi, Prof. Pasricha has studied cases mostly in northern India.

In the early 1970s, Prof. Pasricha joined the Allahabad University group studying paranormal cases, and met American Professor Ian Stevenson, who was in India studying the phenomenon. In the U.S. Prof. Stevenson is credited with bringing the phenomenon of reincarnation into the realm of scientific enquiry. Stevenson, 73,

is professor of psychiatry and the director of the Personality Studies Division at the Department of Behavioral Medicine and Psychiatry at the University of Virginia. For him an early visit to India in 1961 was the beginning of a fascination with reincarnation, a subject on which he has gathered vast amounts of data, documenting several thousands cases of what he calls "suggestive reincarnation."

The author of nine books and 300 articles, Prof. Stevenson has centred his investigations on the experiences of young children, with whom it is easier to distinguish between imagined and behavioural memories, he says. "Although a child may have no conscious memories from a former life, his interests, aptitudes and phobias might have been formed by experiences he or she might have forgotten. Perhaps reincarnation could explain features of the human personality that other theories have failed to elucidate."

Among the cases Prof. Pasricha investigated is that of a 4-year-old girl, Manju Sharma, who at the age of 2 began recalling her previous life as a girl called Krishna in the village of Chamunda, some 6 km from her own village in northern India. According to the girl, her father ran a paan shop (betel leaf that is chewed as a stimulant). The child would often recount events of her life as Krishna, even the way she died: She fell into a nearby well and drowned. Her puzzled parents ignored their daughter until one day she ran up to a man who had come to her village from the village where Krishna was supposed to have lived. "You are my chacha (father's brother or friend)," she cried. "You remember me? My father's name is Laddi Saran."

The man knew that Laddi Saran's daughter Krishna had drowned in a well over five years ago. Back in his own village, he told Saran of the encounter and soon members of the family visited Manju who was overwhelmed when she met Krishna's parents and relatives; she recognised them and wept bitterly. Manju's father reluctantly allowed her to visit them. As she grew up, though, she could recall less and less about Krishna, except her death.

No shortage of cases

Prof. Pasricha and the Allahabad researchers she worked with found there was no shortage of cases and word of mouth led them from one to another. Much hard

work went into cross-checking details and throwing out fraudulent cases. Developed by Prof. Stevenson, the checking method is painstakingly meticulous and goes to great lengths to eliminate questionable evidence. He and Prof. Pasricha also consider other explanations in each case that is investigated. For example, cryptomnesia (the reawakening of buried memory), paramnesia (a memory disorder resulting in false recollections), inherited memory acquired through genetic transmission, extra sensory perception (ESP), or just plain fraud.

Reincarnation seems a particularly compelling inference in cases where birthmarks and deformities corresponded to wounds or diseases of the previous personality.

Huddar, for instance, once lay half dead during a spell, a fetid odour emanating from her body. Her tongue and lips had turned blue, her toe was black. "A king cobra has bitten me," she moaned in Bengali pointing to her blackened right toe. Prof. Pasricha interpreted this as a reliving of the snake bite that killed Huddar's previous personality 150 years ago.

But can science rationally explain reincarnation? Prof. Pasricha admits there are no rational, scientific explanations yet, but then, as she puts it: "No other phenomenon can adequately explain the psychic experiences some people have, experiences that we have proved were not hoaxes." Science, she adds, may not be able to account for paranormal behaviour today, but that could well be because science is not yet equipped for it. "One day," she hopes "we will be able to understand the phenomena completely. Right now, we can at best make an empirical study."

The first serious attempts at such studies in 1882 with the founding of the Society for Psychical Research in London. In 1889, Fickling Hall, an English civil servant who had spent many years in Burma, published six case histories of Burmese children who recalled previous lives. In 1924, a major contribution was made by Gabriel Delanne who compiled a book containing a wide variety of reports of reincarnation from Asia and Europe. But it was not until Prof. Stevenson's studies in the 1960s that truly systematic, scientific investigations into the phenomenon began.

In India, belief in reincarnation dates back to ancient times. In the earliest



Professor Satwant Pasricha says she uses scientific methods to investigate reports of reincarnation

Hindu work, the "Rig Veda" (circa 1,000 BC), certain passages have been interpreted as referring to the phenomenon. More specific allusions appear in later texts, in the "Upanishads" and "Puranas," where the concept of karma (the belief that one's conduct in one life influences one's circumstances in the next) is formulated.

In his work, Prof. Stevenson has noted that societies in which belief in reincarnation is prevalent tend to produce far more reported cases. The Druse people of Lebanon and Syria, the Tingit Indians of Alaska, the Ibo of Nigeria and the Hindus of India are among the populations who hold that belief. It is a part of the Hindu psyche and, in a survey conducted by Prof. Pasricha, 78 per cent of the respondents said they believed in reincarnation. In comparison, a Gallup poll in the U.S. several years ago showed that the figure there is 23 per cent.

According to Prof. Stevenson, it appears that most reported cases occur in families who accept reincarnation. The reason so few cases are reported in Western societies may lie in "suppression by the subject or his parents ... out of fear of ridicule or ostracism," he noted. Another factor could be that the absence of a "framework of beliefs" makes memories of a previous life unintelligible. In addition, he explains, "the interval between death and rebirth may be greater in the West than in Asia or other

parts of the world having both a belief in reincarnation and a high incidence of reported cases." This would result in "greater erosion of memories between lives than occurs in persons who are reborn rapidly."

Another factor may be that people in the West tend to move more and therefore lack the environmental stimulus that may trigger memories. In many reported cases, the subject was "reborn" in a place close to where he lived his previous life. From Prof. Pasricha's and Prof. Stevenson's records, it appears that the subject is about 3 or 4 years old when he or she begins to speak of a previous life, and it often happens quite suddenly. Between the age of 5 and 8, they impulsively stop discussing it. Another common thread is that many subjects describe a violent death ending their former life.

One hot summer's day in Punjab, 3-year-old Anoop Singh was playing in a courtyard when a visiting aunt remarked: "It is so hot today that I would not like to be burned even if I am dead." The child commented: "You won't feel anything when they burn you after you are dead. I know because I didn't feel anything when they burned me." Then, as if the floodgates of his memory had suddenly opened, he told how he was cremated and other details of a previous life.

Another case studied by Prof. Pasricha was that of Lakhman Singh, 4, who lived in a village near Agra (the city

of Taj Mahal). He was asked by his older brother, somewhat peremptorily, to get a glass of water. "I am not Lakhman; call me Jain Sahib, the 4-year-old snapped back. "I am H.L. Jain." Suddenly the memory returned of his life as a respected businessman and philanthropist after whom several institutions were named, and of his career in politics. It was later verified that H.L. Jain was indeed a prominent citizen who had died five years previously. He had lived in a town 15 km from Lakhman's village. "That, incidentally, is the kind of distance separating the places of the related personalities in most cases," said Prof. Pasricha "though there are a few big exceptions."

Huddar's previous personality, for instance, lived in Bengal, 1,100 km from Nagpur, and her case was also remarkable in that the personalities were separated by 150 years, and the fact that she began regressing at the age of 33.

Both Prof. Pasricha and Prof. Stevenson have acknowledged the impossibility of proving reincarnation, but they emphasise that their careful research brings the phenomenon into the realm of probability. "I would not presume — or wish — to attach a figure to this probability," Prof. Stevenson said.

Prof. Pasricha, who is also focusing on near-death experiences, concluded: "It is tremendously exciting. The more you learn about it, the more fascinating it becomes" — World News Link.

Florida boy seeks 'divorce' from parents

By Sarah Tippit
Reuters

ORLANDO, Florida — An 11-year-old Florida boy is seeking a "divorce" from parents he says failed to care for him.

He is also suing a state child welfare system he believes has neglected him.

The case was filed in a Florida court last month by a boy identified only as Gregory K. It is believed to be the first in which a child has attempted to sue his natural parents and a welfare agency so he can stay with his foster parents.

Previously such battles have been waged on behalf of children by guardians, social welfare agencies or through class action suits, where judgement is sought for a group of people.

In this case, the 11-year-old called up a sympathetic lawyer and filed a suit saying he did not want the parents who had given him a childhood of neglect, abandonment and sometimes abuse.

Social workers and lawyers across the nation are watching the case closely.

Normally under Florida law a child in foster care for longer than 18 months is entitled to adoption.

But because caseworkers for Florida's Department of Health and Rehabilitative Services (HRS) have a backlog, Gregory has been in and out of various living situations for more than three years.

Now he has sued his parents and named HRS as a co-defendant.

Some experts say the case sets a dangerous precedent that could threaten the stability of the American family.

"Our society at this point is too litigious as it is," said Charles Gershenson, a former research director at the Children's Bureau of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

Class action suits forcing states and municipalities to change child welfare systems are more effective than individual suits, said Mr. Gershenson, now a private sector policy analyst.

So far, at least 12 class action suits on behalf of foster children have been won nationally, and at least four are pending, according to Chris Hansen, a children's rights advocate at the American Civil Liberties Union. Only in the movies do kids

"divorce" parents, Mr. Hansen said.

But Jack Levine, executive director of the Florida Centre for Children and Youth, an advocacy group, said an individual suit brought by a child would at least raise the level of awareness of "the real life of many tens of thousands of children."

"We treat children as if they are infants without a cognisance of what's in their own best interest," he added.

Court records tell the story of Gregory's misery since his birth in 1980. After his parents divorced, his father illegally snatched him from his mother and subjected him to physical abuse, once throwing him through a glass window.

Over the years, the boy has been bounced between his mother, his father, and several foster homes — at some of which he was also abused.

His mother has abandoned him several times, once when her alleged lesbian lover asked her to choose between Gregory and her. But now the mother says she wants him back.

Although his mother has lived nearby for the last 18 months, she did not contract him or provide financial support, said the boy's lawyer Jerri Blair, adding that at one point his mother had begun proceedings to relinquish custody.

Gregory has been separated, reunited, and separated again from his two little brothers. He has missed a great deal of school.

Four months ago, he was taken in by foster parents in their mid-40s and settled in well. They have other children, and now want to make Gregory a permanent member of the family.

When Gregory learned that HRS was considering returning him to his natural parents, he asked his foster-father: "Dad, what can I do to stay here with you?" Mr. Blair reported. The foster-father suggested a lawyer.

Jane Carey, the court-appointed lawyer for Gregory's mother, said he should not be allowed to choose his parents.

Prudently, the mother had voluntarily given him up so she would not neglect or abuse him. "But now she's in a better living situation. She has her other children back, and would like Gregory returned so she can complete her family," Ms. Carey said.

More than just a smile

By Maha Addasi

If anything, tourism in Jordan is good, but it definitely needs some fine-tuning. So let us take a quick tour through Jordan and see how that is.

While in Aqaba recently, a group of us, all family, took a ride in a glass-boat. Excited as we were and somewhat overwhelmed by the world below we were not quite glad to hear the boat owner, our incidental tour-guide, tell us of the 450 kg and 350 kg sharks he and his friends caught some one hundred metres from the shore, which was almost exactly where we were at the time of his story-telling. And we did not feel any better to hear that sharks do sometimes reach the shore and that inside the "bigger" shark's stomach, he found a six kg fish, an army boot and mangled tin containers.

If the sharks were anything to boast about, the boatman's choice of place was "somewhat" inappropriate. Because had we been tourists from abroad, who did not know of the rarity of such incidents and who had recently seen re-runs of Spielberg's "Jaws," a return to that tourist resort would be very unlikely.

But safe and sound out of Aqaba, let us go north a bit, to Petra, where the rose-red city lives up to its reputation and fascinates visitors, once they get there that is. And getting there could be a "long" way. Visitors, usually making it on horseback through the Siq to reach the Treasury, considered the best part of Petra, could easily think of a tortoise and rare race. The horses are so slow that half-way through the Siq, one is tempted to dismount and carry the horse the rest of the way for mercy's sake.

Whatever happened to the horses we read about in books? The ones which heroes gallop on, sweep their heroines off their feet, and disappear into the horizon to live happily ever after?

Alright, I am not asking for pegasus here, but just for some horses that can walk a tad faster.

Now off to Jerash, with its well-preserved Roman columns, and where not a soul is seen during the day. It could be nice for some lone, tired of crowds visitor, but it is not exactly my cup of tea. But this is not the point.

What happens in Jerash is that people drive by tourist areas on their way to a restaurant. And the point that seems appropriate to mention here is: The food at these restaurants is good, the seating arrangement fabulous, and the service... Yes, the service where some waiters almost seem offended when you call them to take your order.

Speaking of waiters, in some restaurants around Jordan I remember cases where the waiter does not listen to you when you ask for tea without sugar, and may bring it under the form of a saturated solution. If you request another cup of sugarless tea, you end up with a diluted version of the



first cup. And if you "dare" or have the energy to ask again, you are likely to receive so dark a solution that there is no way you can swallow it without sugar. This time, though the waiter makes sure he did not accompany your cup with a sugar bowl.

With these as examples that only touch the surface of the deep-lying problems in tourism, we should start to find ways to orient people to be more friendly, to find a way to improve our tourist facilities and make people who come into contact with tourists more tactful. Then, maybe, we can also encourage internal tourism and help the industry wheel move further.

To the Arab nation, from prison

By E. Yaghi

Stone walls do not a prison make
Nor iron bars a cage;
Minds innocent and quiet take
That for an hermitage;
If I have freedom in my love
And in my soul am free,
Angels alone, that soar above,
Enjoy such liberty.

Richard Lovelace

My name is Nasser and I dwell in the graveyard of the living. I am the defender of Al Aksa Mosque, The Dome Of The Rock and the Holy churches of Jerusalem and Bethlehem as well as a warrior of the intifada. My hermitage is a small dark underground cell in some forgotten dungeon. My existence is solemn and stark to say the least. My friends are the four dank walls which surround me. I have given them names: They are Faith, Hope, Charity and Love. On sunny days, a small shaft of light enters through the cold iron bars and tiny particles of the sun's radiation dance in the dark beams of silence. In summer, I can smell the grape vines and roses growing although I imagine the nearest orchard to be many kilometres away. Sometimes I hear the old owl hoot to nesting doves and I almost know what it is saying. On a rare day, through the rusty iron bars, I see eagles flap their wings against their azure world, clapping their prey in their mighty talons.

Even though my body is chained, I am free. My soul soars with the eagles and flies with the doves. It sings with the finches and swims with the dolphins. I may be fettered to my cell, but my love for my country gives me freedom in spirit and there are no fetters for the soul. However, my country is not free and it is to this oppression that I protest. I have been told that there is a peace conference going on between the Arab nation and the Zionists. It is my dream that the Arabs will be united for only in unity can there be victory and in unity can the dream of peace become a reality. I know that it is against the Zionist tradition to compromise my land, a land that they love not, but rather to confiscate new and more territory so that they may further expand their borders. I know that Israeli delegates all sit at peace tables with their hands folded, unwilling to compromise and steeped in deception, mistrust and hypocrisy while at the same time, they pretend to the world that they are the victims or the descendants of victims of the Nazi holocaust. But what about my people? What about the little children of today and the children of tomorrow?

Are they not also victims of the Israeli holocaust? What does the future hold for them?

Last night I heard a kitten mewing for its mother. There was no human being to help that poor animal who apparently had wandered astray. I felt that the cat and I had much in common for it wildly entreated its mother to help it but received no answer. It was cold yesterday evening. I have only one thin blanket to cover up with, so I emphasised with the unprotected baby feline that had no defense from the cold. If it were here, I would gladly share my blanket with it, but I am sure it would refuse to eat my food which is pushed at me once a day through a tiny hole in the door, for it is filled with rat droppings. Today the kitten is silent which means either that its mother found it or that some Israeli soldiers saw it and took pity on it. Were that we humans so lucky!

From my black corner in my cell, I send out a plea to the Arab leaders to unite and not be selfish. Every leader should not think only of himself and his country. Death is just around the corner for each living creature and it is far better for an Arab leader to go down in history immortalised for greatness than be cursed for tyranny. We, the Arab people hold the key to unlock this "new world order" which plans to leave us behind. We are the owners of the black diamond, oil, if only we join forces and learn how to wield our weapon. Unity should not be so difficult to procure, for we, the Arabs, share one history, one culture and one language; it is up to us now to share also one heart and one mind.

My patriotism whispers at the grates and great winds which are free, whistle of my love for a Palestine which should be the beloved soil of every Arab, a country whose borders should be open to all peace lovers to cross and sojourn in as a part of the greater pan-Arab nation. Tarek Ibn Ziad, my voice grew hoarse calling you. Salahaddin, where are you? I am waiting for victory in the land where the laurel and garland grow; where the muezzin beckons the faithful to prayer five times a day and where the ancient church bells ring in the Holy Land.

Wake up oh Arab nation before it is too late! Do not witness each other fall one by one before your eyes as bait for the wolf, but conquer that wolf together. Seek not dignity in death and defeat, but in unity, liberty and perseverance through equality and justice for each Arab citizen. Let us begin a new era and think of a new Arab order. I leave you now and return to my only friends left in this world, Faith, Hope, Charity and Love.

Signed with courage, loyalty and patience,
Your fellow countryman, Nasser.

JTV CHANNEL 2 WEEKLY PREVIEW

Thursday, May 21

8:30 The Simpsons

Lisa Simpson wins in the best essay contest and gets to visit Washington and the White House.

9:10 N.B.A. Basketball

10:00 News In English

10:20 Movie Of The Week

Cadence

Director: Martin Sheen

Starring: Charlie Sheen

The movie is about race relations in the U.S. Army.

Friday, May 22

8:30 Coach

Any Place I Hang Myself, I Call Home

The coach is in trouble for buying a house which Christine cannot stand.

9:10 E.N.G.

10:00 News In English

10:20 Inspector Morse

Last Bus To Woodstock

11:10 Sibs

The Cut Offs

Lily's attempts to find a job are unsuccessful. Nora, her sister, informs her about a job opportunity as a house manager for a celebrity basketball players.

Saturday, May 23

8:30 Super Bloopers

9:00 Encounter

This episode is on recycling home garbage to be re-used in new industries.

10:00 News In English

10:20 Feature Film

Easy Kill

Starring: Frank Stallone and

Jane Badler

A woman draws up a plan to take the insurance money of her husband, who is a commercial attaché in Peru and has made a fortune through smuggling drugs. She uses a former policeman to help her carry out her plan.

Sunday, May 24

8:30 Wings

Stand Up Kind Of Guy

Joe's friend visits the island. He does not remember anything about Joe or the old days they spent together despite his many attempts to do so.

9:10 Documentary — Casting For Gold

A documentary on fishing the famous Marisa gold fish in the River Ganges in India.

10:00 News In English

10:20 Law And Order

A death in the family. A cop is killed and investigations uncover that he was killed by his partner in self defence.

Monday, May 25

8:30 Empty Nest

Dr. Weston And Mr. Hyde

Nurse Laurie affirms to Dr. Harry that full moon affects people's moods.

9:10 Capital City

Could the "chaos" theory be applied to investment with success?

10:00 News In English

10:20 Gold

The owner of a large company, which is mining for gold, hints to his supporters to burn a newspaper as part of a political conflict at the time of elections.

Tuesday, May 26

8:30 Princesses



Alex Rocco

George Sings The Blues

After looking for a job in the theatre without success, Georgina decides to hire an agent to help her get a job. She finds Marty, who was trying to commit suicide because of personal problems and she starts work with him.

9:10 Palace Guard

Thomas manages to discover a network for pornographic films. He also finds the daughter of a hotel director general who goes missing for a period of time.

10:00 News In English

10:20 Feature Film

Death Drums Along The River

Starring: Richard Todd and Mariam Cook

Commissioner Sanders uncovers a series of murders committed by a greedy doctor in Africa.

Wednesday, May 27

8:30 Saved By The Bell

9:10 Documentary — Equinox

The Gold Brush

The importance, use, production and hazards of paints.

10:00 News In English

10:20 Challenger

The seven astronauts hold a press conference at the base. They answer journalists question, and later they go back to their normal daily life.

Lonely Japanese can now rent a 'family'

By Seigo Sakamoto
Reuter

TOKYO — Elderly Japanese isolated from their children by the frantic pace of modern life can now rent a "family" for lunch and a few hours' conversation.

Just dial a Tokyo number and ask for, say, a daughter, son-in-law and grandchild. They will show up at your door, and greet you emotionally as if they hadn't seen you for years.

Three hours with your temporary "family" will cost you 150,000 yen (\$1,130) plus their transport costs.

This is just one of the human rental services that Nippon Kokasei Honbu (Japan Effectiveness Headquarters) offers. Others include providing "staff" for

timid business executives to bawl out, and "sweethearts" for young people unlucky in love.

According to company President Satsuki Ohiwa, some 15 couples have so far rented relatives. "We have nearly 80 people on the waiting list."

Ohiwa said most people seeking rental companions were in their late 60s, just over retirement age.

"What is common about our clients is that they are thirsty for human love," she said. "We are helping them make their dreams come true."

This unique way of selling an albeit temporary cure for loneliness reflects the problems faced by modern Japan with the growth of the nuclear family and a progressively ageing society.

Where once households with three or more generations living together were commonplace, now numbers are dwindling fast. In cities there are very few indeed. "Aged people are getting isolated from their families and from other people in the town where they live," said Itsuko Tomii, a director of Nippon Kokasei.

Many elderly people see their families only rarely, if at all, she said. This may be because the children's employers have transferred them to a distant city, even abroad, or just because busy family members cannot find time to visit their parents.

"We've seen many cases in which parent-child relations are not in a happy state," said Kaoru Inoue of Nippon Kokasei.

"When a son finally visits his parents after a long while, it is often just to ask for money or for them to let him inherit their property early," Mr. Inoue said.

Loneliness is not just a one-way street. "One young mother came to us to ask about rental grandparents," he added.

The company is diversifying into other fields. For a fee, you can hire a "maid" who will accompany you on shopping trips and make you feel like a millionaire.

The businessman who hires an "employee" to bawl out may do both himself and his company a service, Mr. Inoue said.

"This can renew the staff's appreciation of the executive and reinvigorate his department. It also enables him to find an outlet for frustra-

tion." Nippon Kokasei's "sweetheart" rental is not a service to be abused, Mr. Inoue makes clear.

"You shouldn't think about our lover too romantically," he said. "She's there to act as a counsellor or how to find a girlfriend."

Such services cost up to 20,000 yen (\$150) per hour. Kokasei Honbu was set up in 1987 to train corporate staff on how to improve their human relations in business.

The first "rent-a-family" was dispatched two years ago in response to a businessman too busy to visit his ageing mother.

Company staff visited her instead, and it was a success.

"We then offered the rental family service privately once every few months. It was only this year that it

gained wide publicity when a newspaper wrote about it," Mr. Inoue said.

Once a request comes in, Ms. Tomii calls on the clients to plan the "family reunion." Among questions she asks are what kind of "family" they want, and how they want to pass the time.

The make-believe relatives are played by part-time entertainers who have undergone a year's training in psychology, acting, and self-expression.

Company President Ohiwa says she now plans to send leaflets advertising the service to old people's homes.

Not everyone is sold on the rent-a-family idea. As one middle-aged sceptic asked: "Isn't it an illusion that you can buy a feeling of happiness with money?"

Curtain comes down on U.K's elite country opera house

By Jill Serjeant
Reuter

GLYNDEBOURNE, England — The old walled garden has disappeared into a cavern of cement and the potting sheds have been removed.

Glyndebourne, the quintessential English private country opera house, has opened its last season before the tiny 58-year-old theatre is demolished to make room for a new auditorium fit for the 21st century.

Captains of industry, depending in their private helicopters, and the aristocracy, bow-tied and bejewelled, have found a new pastime to

fill the 75-minute long interval on opera nights — peeping through hoardings at the foundations of the new opera house due to open in May 1994.

"The character of Glyndebourne will, I recognise, change. It will be less homespun, less like the village hall," said Sir George Christie, whose parents started an opera festival in 1934 that has now become as synonymous with English socialite summers as horse racing at Royal Ascot and rowing at Henley.

Yet it is difficult to imagine anything further removed from the village hall than the three-month season at Glyndebourne, as renowned for its high standards as for its lush green lawns where gentlemen and ladies in evening dress picnic on champagne and smoked salmon.

Nearly 60 years on, Glyndebourne is still fulfilling the aims of founder John Christie of doing "not the best we can do but the best that can be done anywhere."

The result: A 7,000-long waiting list for membership. Glyndebourne has shown it can lure the likes of artist David Hockney, the National Theatre's Peter Hall and the Royal Shakespeare Company's Trevor Nunn as designers and directors.

Two of Benjamin Britten's

operas were given their world premiere at Glyndebourne in the 1940s and singers are still chosen as much for their ability to act as to sing — as refreshing a novelty in the world of opera nowadays as it was in the 1930s.

The new horse-shoe shaped opera house nestling in south-east England's Sussex Downs will increase capacity by 318 seats to 1,150, as well as providing enlarged and improved backstage and restaurant facilities.

But Sir George, who will continue to live "over the shop" in his adjoining 15th century ancestral home, is adamant the unique drawing room intimacy of the present theatre will not be lost.

"It is a sine qua non that the existing character and atmosphere should not be destroyed," he said.

"We are situated in the middle of the remnants of the countryside in the south-east and the last thing I want to see is 'Caesar's Palace' here," he added.

Financing the 33 million (\$58.7) project has not been a problem for Glyndebourne, the only British opera house to be funded by the private sector.

While London's Royal Opera House struggles under an accumulated deficit of

£3.3 million (\$5.8 million) despite hefty government subsidies, Glyndebourne's corporate and private patrons have already raised more than 80 per cent of the cost of their new theatre.

"We have been through the worst economic recession since the early 1930s. To be so close to target in such conditions says oceans for the loyalty and extraordinary generosity of the companies and individuals who have responded," said Sir George.

Not a penny will be requested from the government.

The theatre will take its final bow on July 24 when a glittering cast of singers including Montserrat Caballe, Frederica Von Stade and Ruggero Raimondi give a concert in what will be the last performance in the wood-panelled auditorium.

Tickets for the evening, which includes a champagne reception and fireworks display in the company of heir to the throne Prince Charles, start at £750 (\$1,336) each, of which £600 (\$1,069) will go to the building fund.

Deprived of their languid Glyndebourne summer evenings in 1993 because of the building work, the members of this most elite of clubs will be forced to catch up with the company's touring arm at conventional theatres up and

down Britain.

But they will have to pack away the wicker picnic hampers until the curtain rises on the new, larger Glyndebourne.

It will be a come-back exactly 60 years from the opening of the first season, when what began as a rich man's folly turned into an international institution.

In keeping with the sense of tradition that has enabled Glyndebourne to flourish where others have faltered, the opening performance will again be Mozart's *The Marriage Of Figaro*, which started the legend in May 1934.

stars

ily

Alberto Giacometti — the loneliness of the walker

By Pascale Teinac

A man walking, a woman standing and a head on a pedestal are the three key images in Alberto Giacometti's work. This brilliant sculptor wanted to "copy reality" and panicked to see his statues getting thinner and thinner, shrinking and getting so tiny that they threatened to disappear altogether.

PARIS — For Giacometti, the Paris Museum of Modern Art has put on the most magnificent retrospective imaginable, both for the abundance of works gathered together (more than three hundred sculptures, paintings, drawings and even whole pieces of wall from his studio, covered in drawings and paintings) and for the clarity and soberness of the presentation.

Standing out against evenly white walls, the huge statues

(such as the Tall Woman (2.77 metres high) or the tiny busts ("pin-sized" figures, as Michel Leiris called them), emerge from huge pedestals, and give off a striking emotional force. There is a total impression of loneliness emanating from them, perhaps even more in the case of these groups of characters placed next to each other, filiform outlines ignoring one another, or busy walking without ever meeting, going past one another without

seeing each other.

Alberto was born in 1901 in a village in the Canton of Graubunden in Switzerland. He was the son of a post-impressionist painter and Alberto took to drawing from a very early age, encouraged by his father. His mother, father, brothers and sister were not only his first models, but also those of all his life. His first sculpture, at the age of 13, was already a bust of Diego, his very close brother of whom he has left admirable portraits and busts. At the same time, the child tirelessly copied old masters, which he also went on doing all life long.

A gap in Giacometti's life

A dramatic episode in his youth was to mark him for his whole life. He was not yet 20, when he witnessed the death, in an inn, of an old Dutch librarian, Peter Van Meurs, with whom he was travelling. "I watched Van Meurs' head

changing," he was to write later on. "His nose became more and more emphasised, his cheeks became hollow, his almost motionless open mouth was barely breathing and, towards the evening, as I was drawing this profile, I was seized with the sudden fear that he was going to die. This event was, for me, like a gap in life."

A sculpture in 1947, *Head On A Stem*, is the tragic expression of this "gap."

In Paris, where he arrived in 1922, Giacometti, influenced by cubist sculptors and by African and Cycladic art at the same time, soon turned to making almost totally flat sculptures, "plates" as he called them. Before that, he had made the admirable *Spoon Woman*, his first monumental sculpture, no doubt inspired by the spoon carvings of black Africa.

Then, for a while he was influenced by the surrealists (as revealed by his famous *Hanging Ball*, the first

"multi-functioning object") but he was soon back on his quest for reality and started working on heads, portraits and busts of his wife Annette and Diego. This was not to the liking of the surrealists who excluded him from their group ("a head, everybody knows what a head is," Andre Breton cried).

A flick of the thumb

But Giacometti's heads, like his statues of standing nudes, shrank and flattened more and more and became tiny.

"In 1940, to my great terror," he was to write, "my statues started to get smaller. All my statues unavoidably ended up being just one centimetre tall. A flick of the thumb and no more statues."

Later, his statues were to become big again, until they reached giant proportions, but they remained incredibly thin, emaciated and filiform. Giacometti gave them movement and had them walk on

excessively long legs, anchored to heavy cubic pedestals. Other statues remained totally motionless, stretched in height, with their arms along their bodies, forming a forest of lonely humans ignoring one another.

Giacometti's work includes humans and two animals, the only ones to have been kept: Alberto's cat dog have, in a way, become legendary. The skeleton-like, filiform cat, had been taken in by Diego. As for the dog, completely flattened with a curved spine, "It is me," Giacometti said.

"I felt like a dog. So I made this sculpture."

Alberto Giacometti died on Jan. 11 1966. On his grave in his native village in Switzerland, Diego has placed his last work, a bust of the Romanian photographer, Elie Lotar, sitting, with his hands on his knees, and all the tragedy of the world in his eyes — *L'Actualite En France*.



Alberto Giacometti in his workshop

British Museum honours Chinese artist

By Max De Lotbiniere

LONDON — "My painting is a combination of East and West — it has given birth to a child of mixed birth," explains Wu Guanzhong, one of China's most venerated contemporary artists. "This is the first time the 'child' has come to Europe and we shall see if it recognises itself." Wu Guanzhong, 73, has waited a long time to bring his work back to the continent that has been the source of so much inspiration for him, and today he is justifiably proud. Since the end of March, the British Museum in London has given part of its gallery space usually devoted to 8th and 10th century Chinese painting to a six-week exhibition of Wu Guanzhong's works — the first time the museum has exhibited the work of a living artist. Although his work has been shown in Asia and the U.S., this is his first exhibition in Europe, but this is no retrospective of the work of an artist at the end of his career. At the entrance to the gal-

lery, one is confronted by a semiabstract painting of China's Great Wall a metre and a half wide. The vastness of the subject is captured in bold black brushstrokes and splashes of colour. One could mistakenly think this was the work of the artist as a young man, but they would be wrong. Like many of the 44 pictures in the exhibition, it is a recent work from an artist who seems to defy old age and revel in newfound freedom of expression after a lifetime spent struggling against cultural and political hostility at home. On his brief visit from Peking, where he lives, for the opening of the exhibition in the U.K., Wu Guanzhong sits on one of the benches in the gallery surrounded by his work. Few would make the connection between this frail, old man and the energetic, vigorous paintings on the walls.

The interaction between Chinese and Western art — the "mixed birth" to which Wu Guanzhong likens his work — has been the main element of his career, but his

determination to bring the two traditions together has cost him much. Born in Jiangsu province, in southern China, this son of a poor primary school teacher fell in love with art at an early age. "The height of my father's ambition for me was that I would become a teacher, but I came in contact with the Hangzhou Art School and fell in love with art," he recalls. The first year of his studies was interrupted by the Japanese invasion in 1937. Through the difficult war years Wu Guanzhong continued to train, but his ambition was to study art in Paris. In preparation, he taught himself French with the help of a missionary priest. In 1946 his ambition was realised, and for three years he studied at the Ecole Nationale des Beaux Arts.

The more he became immersed in the styles and techniques of Western art, particularly oil painting which had never been a medium in traditional Chinese art, the less Wu Guanzhong felt he could express himself. "Though I

did not care for its luxury," he explains, "Paris enraptured me with the vigour and acute sensuality of its modern art. Lu Xun (another Chinese artist) once said that he ate grass but he produced milk. For me, though I drank milk I could not produce it. I came to realise imitation was not art. A narcissus bulb can blossom without soil, but I lacked that quality; I felt lost without soil."

Knowing that he was giving up a great deal, Wu Guanzhong returned to China in 1950 to draw inspiration from his homeland, but also with a youthful mission, as he says "to go my own way, to produce oil paintings that my countrymen would appreciate, to open up a new path."

On his return he was appointed lecturer at the Peking Central Academy of Art. He passed on his Western training to his students, who were eager to learn about Van Gogh and Cezanne, but he was also required to paint for propaganda. He complied with the authorities' demands and painted workers and peasants — the heroes of the revolution; however, his efforts were dismissed as ugly, not the idealised and prettified images required by the new Communist China.

Thus began the first of his clashes with the authorities, who condemned him as a "bourgeois formalist and a danger to the young." In response, he gave up figure painting and turned instead to landscape. In 1967 the full fury of the Cultural Revolution was unleashed, and like many other artists and intellectuals he was sent to the country to lead the life of a peasant for three years, forbidden to paint or to even communicate with his wife. The "new path" that had been his youthful ideal seemed to be at an end. The

cultural bureaucrats refused to allow Western artistic influences and forced him to destroy some of his paintings.

From his bench in the British Museum gallery, Wu Guanzhong points to one of his works on display. At first glance the painting in ink and colour on paper — his preferred medium in his recent work — seems completely abstract. It is a fluid mass of twisting brushstrokes and splashes of colour, literally thrown on the paper. Gradually one picks out figurative details — birds nesting in a tree, a temple roof, a bridge and the river flowing beneath it. The painting, like most on show is a landscape. As Wu Guanzhong explains, the figurative details act as signposts to help one understand and relate to the abstract elements. This is the essence of Wu Guanzhong's blend of Western and Chinese styles, based on a commitment to his viewer.

While he paints, Wu Guanzhong imagines a simple peasant at his shoulder, the type of person he lived and worked with during the Cultural Revolution. As the political situation eased, he was allowed to work again, but since then he has tried to paint in a style that can be appreciated by that peasant.

No matter how abstract the work, it must contain elements that can be recognised and understood. "It is like a kite," he says. "The abstract part of my work, the space and depth, are Western. The kite. But the kite is held by a string. The string is the traditional, figurative Chinese element that the ordinary viewer can hold on to and through which he can come to understand the rest."

In the last decade, Wu Guanzhong has been allowed to travel, and in the exhibition some of the pictures that he has painted abroad.

Cities of Hong Kong and Paris are featured, but most striking are two landscapes of America's Grand Canyon. In some of the other paintings, it seems that he is again finding confidence to bring figures back into his work.

"I can't decide now what I might paint in the future," he says, while agreeing that he is now freer than he ever was.

"I paint what I see around me, that is my inspiration. And when he is inspired, his choice of materials is ink on paper, or even a fountain pen or a felt tip. One regret he has about his brief visit to the U.K. is that he has had no time to get to know the latest works and styles in the contemporary art scene. The work among British artists that stands out for him is that of Francis Bacon, a telling choice. Bacon's works, figurative and abstract, are perhaps the most uncompromising in contemporary art and one senses that it is Bacon's freedom that Wu Guanzhong most admires."

Wu Guanzhong was again allowed to teach after the Cultural Revolution and has been closely involved with the development of young artists. He is very aware that a decade of openness in China has been positive as well as negative for them. "Some have gained recognition abroad for their work. They have even sold works and made money, but this success has come very fast. This affects their artistic development. They are under pressure to produce more work, but it takes a long time to build a personal style."

Arnold Chang, director of Chinese Paintings for the international art auction company Sotheby's agrees that the market for contemporary mainland Chinese art has been very strong recently. To meet this demand, Sotheby's



Wu Guanzhong

held its first sale of modern Chinese paintings in Taiwan in March, which Mr. Chang claims was very successful. In that sale, three paintings by Wu Guanzhong were sold for a total of about \$150,000. Mr. Chang sees a danger in the rush to discover younger mainland Chinese artists.

"It's scary because it's happening very quickly, and we have to ask if the younger artists are ready artistically and psychologically to cope with it. The nature of the modern Chinese art market is unlike markets elsewhere. There's no established network of local galleries, collectors or critics to nurture talent. We just haven't had time to sort it out. Instead, the auction market is the cutting edge rather than one aspect of the Chinese art scene."

Chang acknowledges that Wu Guanzhong's work is highly regarded, but he is wary about the tradition, which in his view has been a struggle fought by many Chinese artists for 200 years.

of merging Western and Chinese styles. "It's one thing to merge East and West," he says, "but the ability to do that doesn't necessarily make successful art. In the past, it may have been easier for an artist to produce art that conformed to accepted formulas, but now, with the much greater freedom to experiment that artists have in China, things might be harder because there is no longer any excuse."

Wu Guanzhong's paintings represent the limits to which an artist in China has been allowed to go over the last 50 years. It is not surprising that his most recent works contain a freedom and energy unlike anything produced before. It would be cruel if age prevented him from taking this artistic freedom even further. As the British Museum gallery fills, Wu Guanzhong's artist's eyes are already restless, taking in the visitors' silhouettes. It won't be long before he finds a pen in one of his pockets and sets to work — World News Link.



Captured in bold black brushstrokes, the Great Wall of China, seen by Wu Guanzhong

'Childhood abuse may raise risk of combat stress disorder'

By Malcolm Ritter
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — A study of Vietnam veterans suggests that childhood abuse may raise the risk of developing post-traumatic stress disorder after combat, a finding that may help in treatment.

Veterans who sought treatment for the stress disorder, sometimes called PTSD, were more likely to report having been sexually or physically abused as children than were veterans without the disorder, the study found.

Co-author Dr. J. Douglas Bremner stressed that the disorder is caused by the combat itself rather than childhood abuse. Nearly three-quarters of those suffering from it reported no history of such earlier abuse, he noted.

The finding just suggests that childhood abuse may make a person more vulnerable to a later stress disorder from combat, he said.

The study included a relatively small sample so further research should be done to

see if the result can be confirmed, he said. If so, the insight may help in designing treatment and prevention, he said.

Dr. Bremner is a Yale university psychiatrist who also works at the National Centre for Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder's Division of Clinical Neurosciences at the West Haven Veterans Affairs Medical Centre in Connecticut.

He spoke in an interview before presenting the study at the annual meeting of the

American Psychiatric Association.

Not everyone agreed with his interpretation.

Charles Figley, director of the psychosocial stress research programme at Florida State University in Tallahassee, said the results may simply reflect the well-established relationship between childhood abuse and adult psychiatric problems in general.

Or, he said, they may mean the veterans seeking treatment for the post-combat stress disorder were more

willing and able to recall childhood abuse than the other veterans, who sought only medical treatment.

In a telephone interview, Dr. Figley also cautioned that the small sample of Vietnam veterans was restricted to those seeking help from VA hospitals, a group that may not represent Vietnam veterans as a whole.

Still, the results are intriguing enough to justify additional research, he said. Although previous studies have rejected the idea of

predisposing factors for most PTSD, such factors may play a role in some cases, he added.

The disorder can appear months or years after a traumatic experience such as combat, a natural disaster or an airplane crash. Symptoms include sudden, vivid reliving of the experience, nightmares that can make a person awaken screaming, and intense distress from events that symbolise or resemble the trauma. Some people with PTSD remain on constant alert for danger.

A 1988 estimate said about 15 per cent of Vietnam veterans had the disorder at that time.

The new study compared 38 Vietnam combat veterans seeking help for PTSD with 28 Vietnam combat veterans seeking help for medical problems. Based on a questionnaire and an interview, 29 per cent of the PTSD group reported having been physically or sexually abused or both as children. Only 7 per cent of the other group reported the childhood prob-

lems. When scientists adjusted the findings to account for differences in combat exposure, which is known to affect risk of the disorder, the association with childhood abuse remained just as strong, Dr. Bremner said.

He said it is not clear exactly how childhood abuse could raise the risk of combat-related PTSD.

Researchers are now analysing data from Gulf war veterans to see whether similar findings appear, he said.

AIDS, economics push condom to the forefront in China

By Andrew Quinn
Reuters

PEKING — She's 45, favours pink cardigans, and has a motherly smile. She is also in charge of all the condoms in China.

Liu Chunmei, head of the Division of Contraceptive Supply at China's State Family Planning Commission, oversees the production and distribution of hundreds of millions of condoms, contraceptive pills and intra-uterine devices (IUDs) for the world's most populated country.

Armed with a budget of millions, she monitors the sex lives of close to 1.1 billion people who live under a government edict to have only

one child per family. Ms. Liu, with a bird's-eye view on the practice of contraception in China, must make plans to ensure the country's vast population has enough of what it needs.

And what it needs, in these days of acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS), is condoms.

"We are cooperating with the anti-AIDS drive," Ms. Liu said in an interview. "Now, when we distribute condoms, we are also considering instructing people on the prevention of AIDS."

Unlike most Western countries, China's favoured method of contraception is the tubal ligation, a surgical procedure that prevents women from having children.

When contraception fails, the state exerts heavy pressure for women to have abortions in order to stick to population targets.

Ms. Liu dismisses persistent horror stories in the Western press saying China relies too heavily on the surgeon's knife to keep its population under control.

"Our abortion rate is not higher than many Western countries," she said. The ratio of abortions to live births in China was about 0.60 in 1990, according to official data.

Ms. Liu said ligation, a relatively simple procedure, could save a lot of headaches. "There's nothing wrong with ligation. We urge all families to do it after they've

had two children," she said. "For some women in the countryside, it is the best way. There is nothing to remember. You just do it and it's done."

Ms. Liu said about 50 per cent of China's women opt for surgery, some after heavy government prodding, while 40 per cent chose the IUD — a coil or loop of plastic inserted in the womb to prevent conception.

The IUD has been under attack in the West because of allegations it may lead to infection, but Ms. Liu said that in China this was not a problem.

But short-term contraception still plays an important role in China's birth control

drive, particularly as premarital sex rises amid fading Communist morality.

AIDS, a deadly, sexually-transmitted disease that may be avoided by condom use, and the economics of production are also pushing the condom to the fore.

China has officially reported only about 500 AIDS cases, most attributed to intravenous drug use. But health officials are worried that the risk is growing. Ms. Liu and her factories are the frontline of defence.

Ms. Liu's contraceptive empire would be the envy of any Western entrepreneur save for the fact that most of her products are distributed free.

Work units, local birth

control offices and pharmacies have been dragged into the contraceptive supply business, building a nationwide network of over one million people dedicated to keeping babies at bay.

"We must make a central plan, based on how much contraception we feel the country will need," Ms. Liu said. "This is based just on our experience. There is no scientific way of calculating it."

Ms. Liu's office assumes the average condom-using Chinese male will require between 120 and 150 condoms per year. But China's seven state condom factories churn out millions more in reserves.

The government's 1992 scheme calls for the produc-

tion of 960 million condoms — a rise of 11 per cent over 1991.

Production of contraceptive pills will decline by 53 per cent to 40 million. Ms. Liu said this did not reflect a policy change but rather an attempt to clear overstocked pills that have been piling up in government storehouses.

Ms. Liu, who works with an annual budget of around 100 million yuan (\$18.5 million), said she is now struggling with the same problems that affect most of China's other state industry: Overproduction.

"We could produce 1.5 billion condoms per year if we wanted, but the demand is not there," she said. "We have to explain this to the

factories."

Despite high worldwide demand for condoms because of the AIDS threat, Ms. Liu said there were no plans to turn China's condom-making machine towards export.

"We have investigated whether there are export possibilities, but so far, we haven't seen any," she said.

Ms. Liu said she was now trying to put condoms on the shelves of department stores. An earlier experiment with vending machines failed when the machines were vandalised.

"We are getting looser on condom distribution," she said. "We still haven't done enough to let people know how to get contraceptives."

Anti-smoking campaign faces uphill battle in China

By Kathy Chenault
The Associated Press

PEKING — A train traveler drew on a cigarette and added a pungent puff to the haze in a station waiting room amply marked with "no smoking" signs.

When one of the signs was pointed out to him, he smiled, shrugged and went on

smoking. So much for China's new anti-smoking campaign.

China has an estimated 300 million smokers among its 1 billion people. The country produces 310 billion cigarettes a year. Both numbers are higher than those for any other country in the world.

Sixty per cent of men

smoke, as well as many women and teenagers. In the tobacco belt on Yunnan province, southwestern China, some children start smoking at 6 or 7.

The Chinese Smoking and Health Association, a private group started in 1990, is trying to change that. It is made up largely of health professionals familiar with

Western studies on the risks of smoking, but has only five staff members and no legislative clout.

Du Shaoyong, the group's deputy secretary-general and the editor of a health journal, expects a long struggle.

"This is a traditional problem that can be solved only with persistence and a large amount of work," she said in

an interview.

Village education is at the heart of the association's programme. Elders are urged to set an example by kicking the nicotine habit, and schoolchildren are told to take the message home to their parents.

After a year's work in two rural counties in the northern province of Shanxi, Ms. Du said, the number of smokers fell by nine per cent in one county and 15 per cent in the other. China has 1,936 counties.

Her association also is up against a powerful state tobacco industry that earned the central government \$5.2 billion last year. The Health Ministry lends only token support to anti-smoking efforts and officials refused to

be interviewed on the subject.

It was encouraging when 87-year-old senior leader Deng Xiaoping, a chain smoker for years, stopped smoking in 1989. His daughter, Deng Lin, said he quit for health reasons. Nevertheless, television often shows other officials smoking during meetings.

A ban on billboard advertising for cigarettes is widely ignored. Anti-smoking signs have gone up in airports, theatres and other public places, but smokers ignore them, and there is no effort at enforcement.

"It's just propaganda," said a railroad employee in the train station. A passing co-worker in uniform waved

with a hand holding a lit cigarette.

A tobacco-marketing law that took effect on Jan. 1 includes some anti-smoking provisions, but most are vague and say nothing about enforcement.

Two of the provisions, which have had little effect, forbid smoking by schoolchildren and recommend that the tar content of cigarettes be lowered to 15 milligrams, about half the current level.

Cigarette packages now carry the warning "cigarette smoking is harmful to health," but is written in small print.

Ms. Du's association has obtained some support from the World Health Organisation, which spent \$100,000 last year on anti-smoking

education in China.

Dr. Bill Kean, the U.N. agency's Peking representative, said it is difficult to curb smoking in developing countries such as China because the main health emphasis is on fighting contagious diseases. Many people know nothing about lung cancer or emphysema.

"You put it in simplistic terms and say, 'smoking will make you sick,'" he said. "Then the reaction is, 'but I'm not sick, so what's the problem?'"

Gao Yueping, a cigarette vendor, is not worried about her future.

"People know it is no good for their health, but you cannot force them to quit," she said.

WEEKEND CROSSWORD

DOUBLES
By Isaac Miller

ACROSS
1 Rock growth
2 Ship's transport
3 Horseman's
4 Microscope
5 Opposite
6 Hawaiian part
7 Symbol over a
8 With scales
9 Discard
10 Shred
11 Shred
12 Red or fresh
13 Move with little effort

DOWN
1 Servant
2 Story starter
3 Plant supporter
4 Tanager
5 Possessive
6 Nightclub
7 Peak
8 Singer Acut
9 Sit up
10 Anytime
11 Guss — (rum
12 A Peron
13 Carver's
14 Craving
15 Living experience
16 Gender's de-
17 Turn inside out
18 Egg container
19 Look
20 Hard to land
21 Queen of the
22 gods

35 Lather
36 La Scala offering
37 Liberty
38 Wading birds
39 In direct
40 Opposite
41 Punch
42 Anklebone
43 Mirror or Gray
44 Embroid
45 Fanciful
46 Employed
47 Conclusions
48 Tanager
49 Haberdashery
50 Purchase
51 Open-head pen
52 Madrid moola
53 Say
54 Jacket

65 Revenge
66 Riddle riddle
67 Case role
68 Grassy
69 Dant or Dudley
70 Rehearsal
71 Experiment
72 Address Nazism
73 Shout
74 Nervous quiver
75 Mistle or elegant
76 Plain layer
77 Encountered
78 Tanager
79 From where
80 Jacob
81 Referee
82 Hermit
83 Dutch partner
84 Pulver's rank

102 Help
103 T-t
104 Rehearsal
105 Drunk
106 Rehearsal
107 Present occasion
108 Comprehensive
109 Shout
110 Jason's craft
111 Foundation great
112 French resort
113 Brainstorm
114 Actor James
115 North Sea leader
116 Alliance
117 Hermit
118 Dutch partner
119 Pulver's rank

63 "How — love
64 Rule ver.
65 Devoted from
66 Humiliate
67 Vainly ingredient
68 Vainly
69 Post of propriety
70 Zash
71 Chimney
72 Vase
73 Summit meeting
74 Disposition
75 Isolated
76 Canoe
77 Consumed
78 Consumed
79 White-tailed
80 White-tailed
81 White-tailed
82 Annual term
83 — time (early
84 Enough)
85 Confronted
86 Confronted
87 Gr letter

91 Instruction to a
92 St. Louis
93 Jesuit
94 Chin, dynasty
95 John or Ter
96 "Scarlet" for
97 one
98 Post of propriety
99 Eshon and
100 Bayes
101 Urine
102 Gae — on
103 Michigan city
104 Titled
105 Buckle
106 Water items
107 "A" — dock
108 scholar
109 One's friend
110 Zonal
111 Puts on
112 Titled
113 Pindaric

107 Famous trial lawyer, weary from it all, runs away to join circus as a
108 Hope comes when the pale candlelight at a troubled tunnel's end becomes
109 Respectably, the playful dolphin cannot comprehend the basic rules of a
110 After delicious repast of lingual and clam sauce, Luigi chose lemon
meringue pie for his dessert.

1. UNBOLY ALACK SKIRKS ISHXZKE
2. OSINKSPXC TWESKEIMLHW AN ZINLWE
3. LUHSHIC PLKWE PRS "LUHSHIC"
4. PSLEWE
5. ANGIGHM, MXRS WANSNGSUH NGJ
6. AEGIGHM MN AR KC CUJGLWMONGC KC OM
7. PKC CGLWMNGC
8. YGP BUOTJMOASGU HE PUHAYB SHE
9. NUNGTJE: "OII HE MYG OTJ JOYJIG"
10. NEON LBAE RT OKLOST CYPYAN
11. TRICKY RT TRICKS CYPYAN
12. SOLUTIONS OF
LAST WEEK'S PUZZLE

Famed baby expert, Dr. Spock, changes views on child rearing

By David Beard
The Associated Press

TORTOLA, British Virgin Islands — At 88, America's top baby doctor gets in his daily swim and has plenty of snorkeling gear for visitors. On land, Dr. Benjamin Spock is working on a new book and becoming increasingly moralistic about child-rearing.

"I'm ready," Dr. Spock yelled to his wife, Mary Morgan, who already was knee-deep in the aqua waters outside their bayside condominium one sunny Saturday afternoon, feeding bread to a pet grouper.

Dr. Spock splashed into the Caribbean, adjusted his face mask, then began swimming towards his 35-foot (11-metre) sloop, The Carapace, anchored about 60 metres offshore. He swam a lap around the boat and slapped towards shore.

Dr. Spock has appreciated the sea since his youth in Connecticut. White at Yale, he won a spot on the U.S. crew team, taking a gold medal at the 1924 Olympics in Paris.

From his retirement in 1967 until last year, he lived on sailboats near Camden, Maine, and off this sparsely populated British Virgin Is-

land. He reluctantly moved ashore for health reasons, but he spends much of his time on his shaded seaside deck or at a writing desk facing the water.

"I feel like all my life has been on the sea," Dr. Spock said, easing his tall, thin frame into a deck chair.

Dr. Spock, author of Dr. Spock's Baby and Child Care and a longtime peace activist, said he first came to the Virgin Islands after a speaking engagement in Puerto Rico.

But he doesn't spend all his time looking.

He rose this Saturday before 6 a.m., accompanying his wife to market for fresh vegetables before returning to work on his book. His wife has him on following a macrobiotic diet as well as doing regular exercises and meditation, all intended "to keep Ben around here a lot longer."

"I've lost my beer belly and haven't been sick all day since I started, in September," Dr. Spock said.

Since then, he's done a publicity tour to promote the sixth revised edition of Baby and Child Care, published last month; renewed work on his next book, "A Better World For Our Children, and been host to a screenwriter after Disney signed an option

to make a movie of his life.

He says he is growing increasingly moralistic about child-rearing, urging parents not to show hesitancy to their children about bedtime or other home rules. He believes parents should cultivate their children's desire to be helpful, and push them not to compete but to serve as tutors, counsellors or other volunteers.

Dr. Spock emphasised the role parents must play in giving their children strong values. "I've come to the realisation that a lot of our problems are because of a dearth of spiritual values," he said.

On practical matters, he opposes disposable diapers (bad for the environment), Little League (too competitive), sunbathing, infant walkers and sugar-coated cereal.

Dr. Spock sees his life in three phases: The struggling pediatrician, the successful author and medical researcher, and the peacenik, anti-nuclear activist and presidential candidate.

With a then-rare combination of pediatric and psychological training, he entered practice during the great depression, and said it took him three years to earn enough to pay his rent. Struggling to reconcile Freudian psychology with what mothers told

him about their babies, he spent three years writing Baby and Child Care.

The book was a huge success when published in 1946. It since has sold 40 million paperback copies and has been translated into 39 languages, according to the publisher.

"Without that book," Dr. Spock acknowledged, "I'd have had to have worked as a practitioner until I died."

Instead, he developed theories on thumb-sucking, toilet training, punishment and discipline. After retiring in 1967, he gave 800 college lectures in the next eight years, mostly against the Vietnam War and military spending.

In the latest edition of the book, he and co-author Michael Rothenberg urge parents to vote to support better health care and education in a world of discrimination and homelessness.

"People have said, 'you've turned your back on pediatric,'" I said, "No. I took me until I was in my 60s to realise that pediatric was a part of pediatric," Dr. Spock said.

"I get very discouraged sometimes, but I was brought up in such a way that the more alarming the situation is, the more I have to get working."

Jordan rejects foreign role in shrines

(Continued from page 1)

liberate Kuwait. Shortly after the Saudi announcement of King Fahd's contribution of \$10 million, His Majesty King Hussein, whose government remains responsible for the maintenance and upkeep of the holy shrines in the occupied Holy City, said he was donating \$8.25 million of his private funds to repair the seventh century mosques.

Saudi Arabia said Monday King Fahd's donation did not have any political motive but represented a religious action. Saudi Arabia "has and still undertakes such a solemn Islamic action out of its conviction to please God," said acting Information Minister Darwish Kayyal.

Mr. Sharif said the Saudi announcement of King Fahd's donation came as a surprise to Jordan since it was agreed by an April 28 meeting of the Arab League Council that an Arab panel would look into the affairs of the holy sites and report to the council by the end of this month.

Mr. Sharif said while Jordan appreciates the Saudi donation it also remains firm in its rejection of the involvement of the UNESCO or any other international organisation in the affairs of the Islamic holy shrines in Jerusalem since "any such involvement will open the door for the internationalisation of not only Islamic issues but the Holy City itself."

"We do not and will not accept any internationalisation of Jerusalem or its Islamic holy sites," he added. "Nor do we accept any attempt to circumvent Jordan's

role.

"All such attempts will not give those trying to do so a role in Jerusalem. On the contrary it will weaken Jordan's role and open a crack for Israel to have a say in these sites."

Mr. Sharif referred to the continued Jordanian engagement in the restoration of holy sites in Jerusalem through the Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs and particularly the Committee for the Restoration of Aqsa and Dome of the Rock Mosques and said these were the legitimate channels for anyone concerned over the state of the holy shrines.

Mr. Sharif, obviously in a bid to strike a conciliatory but firm note, said King Hussein's personal gesture was very much in line with the Kingdom's Arab and Islamic-recognised role as custodian of the Islamic shrines not only in Jerusalem but also elsewhere in the Israeli-occupied territories.

"Since 1948 Jordan has maintained its role, which was further consolidated with a 1954 law," which established the Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs with particular attention to the Dome of the Rock and Al Aqsa mosques, the minister pointed out, adding that the Kingdom continued to support the shrines with regular budget allocations even after its legal and administrative disengagement with the West Bank in July 1988.

According to government figures, Jordan spent JD 164 million on holy sites in Palestine since 1948, including the costs of periodic repairs and salaries of civil servants working for them. "It has been a commitment and role that Jordan faithfully per-

formed without asking anyone for help or receiving any help from anyone," Mr. Sharif said.

Jordan's agreement to the inclusion of the Dome of the Rock and Al Aqsa mosques in a UNESCO list of "historic sites under peril" several years ago was motivated by concern over the practices of the Israeli occupation authorities against Islamic holy sites and did in no way imply any shifting of responsibility, the minister said.

Jordan has sent a message to the secretary-general of the Paris-based UNESCO explaining the Kingdom's position and asking the organisation that any action in this regard be taken through the Jordanian committee (see separate story).

The Foreign Ministry also summoned the heads of missions of all Arab countries, including the Saudi charge d'affaires, this week to present the Jordanian viewpoint.

In reply to a question, Mr. Sharif said a message of thanks sent by Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Yasser Arafat to King Fahd did not imply any PLO-Jordan differences over the issue.

"The message, as I understand it, expressed the Palestinians' gratitude and appreciation of the Saudi contribution, but did not endorse the manner in which it was made," Mr. Sharif said.

Saudi newspapers had splashed the news of Mr. Arafat's message to King Fahd, implying that the Palestinians were rallying behind Saudi Arabia in what many newspapers and news agencies describe a "tussle" between King Hussein and the Saudi monarch over the holy shrines.

'Right of return is negotiable'

(Continued from page 1)

peace talks. Washington said the negotiations would be based on U.N. Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338.

But in response to a question, Mr. Musa said he did not believe the U.S. was retreating from its earlier position.

"Of course they (242 and 338) are resolutions that deal with the settlement of the issue but when we come to details or the different components of the problem like refugees etc... there are rules, there are certain principles, there are certain resolutions that have to be dealt with but all of them within the framework of negotiations," he said.

End in sight for Thai crisis

(Continued from page 1)

Mr. Suchinda, the former military chief who led a coup last year, has been under growing pressure to quit from many quarters, including university students and professors, shopkeepers and professionals. The United States and other nations also condemned the government crackdown on democracy protesters.

Army-run Channel 9 television said the talks were arranged by former Prime Minister Prem Tinsulanonda, who serves on the privy council, which advises the king.

Bangkok was swirling with rumours that troops loyal to Mr. Prem, who was prime minister in 1980-88, had clashed with Mr. Suchinda's forces or were marching on the capital from the north. Reporters on the northern approaches to the city saw military roadblocks but no major troop movements or fighting.

Thousands of protesters venting their rage at the government rampaged along Rajdamnern Avenue, setting flower plants and trucks afire. They yelled when soldiers advanced and shots were fired.

Mr. Suchinda announced the official death toll during a television broadcast earlier in the day. But numerous unconfirmed reports put the toll much higher than 40.

"The government must take drastic measures with the intention to prevent the situation from damaging our loving country," said Suchinda, looking somber and drawn, said in his national television broadcast.

A few hours later, police ordered a 9 p.m.-4 a.m. curfew and shut down three newspapers that had been strongly critical of the government, the English-language Nation and two Thai-language papers.

Before the talks were announced, two members of the royal family appeared on television for the first time since the violence began.

"We all want the same thing, which is democracy," Crown Princess Sirindhorn said, appealing for an end to the strife but refraining from taking sides.

Later, Crown Prince Vajiralongkorn, heir to the throne, said: "The flow of blood from the killing and violence will result in the loss of everything for Thailand."

The capital remained virtually shut down and there was anger in the streets over the military's six decades of dominating politics and the use of force against demonstrators. Anti-government rallies were reported in 13 provinces.

Arafat says PLO did well

(Continued from page 1)

of each other, to explain their point of view about different issues," Ahmad Abu Ala, supervisor of the Palestinian delegation, told a news conference.

Representatives of 37 delegations discussed pollution, sewage and waste management, and protection of wildlife, and agreed to hold additional talks in the early fall in the Hague.

Mr. Abu Ala, who heads the PLO's Economic Affairs and Planning Department, said his organisation would maintain its commitment to the Middle East peace process through negotiations.

But he said he would not expect any quick consensus on environmental issues based on the latest meeting, part of the U.S.-sponsored Middle East peace

effort launched in Madrid in October.

"All parties should take care of the Palestinians. When we speak about environment, our problem is not sewage and garbage. Our problem is land and control of land and natural resources," Ala said.

Japan was given chairmanship of the environment committee, one of the five working groups. The other groups deal with arms control, water, refugees and economic cooperation.

Jordan explains stand to UNESCO

(Continued from page 1)

there are a number of facts that are brought to your attention in this regard," said Mr. Hindawi in his message.

He said that the Dome of the Rock and the Al Aqsa Mosque are considered Arab, Islamic and human heritage that has been cared for by Jordan through a special committee formed in 1954 which has been handling its task in accordance with Jordanian laws and regulations. This committee has been under the direct control and supervision of the Jordanian minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs in his capacity as the committee chairman and that the Awqaf Council in Jerusalem has been acting as an arm of the Jordanian Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs, carrying out the

committee's task of maintenance and restoration of holy places in Jerusalem, added the minister.

In manifestation of his commitment to and concern over the holy places and the danger threatening their structure, His Majesty King Hussein has allocated \$8,249,000 as a personal donation in his name and on behalf of the Hashemite family, which has been upholding its historic and legal responsibilities towards safeguarding this great heritage, the message noted. It said that the Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs in Amman has been annually allocating funds in its budget towards the upkeep of Haram Al Sharif.

The Jordanian government, acting from its legal and historic responsibilities towards the Islamic holy places in Jerusalem, hopes that UNESCO's concern in

this matter remains within the framework of the organisation's charter which provides for protecting world heritage with a view to upholding the principles of human understanding without infringing on this concept, said the message.

The message also said that Jordan hopes that UNESCO's endeavours would not allow other parties to try to achieve political ends in violation of UNESCO's noble principles.

It said: "The Jordanian government, being legally responsible for the holy places in Jerusalem, (believes) any ideas, plans, projects, acts or initiatives related to these holy places should be conducted through the Jordanian government and its relevant responsible agencies which serve as the sole authority for conducting such activities."

Israel kicks off election race

(Continued from page 1)

media not to jeopardise the effort by publicising it. Labour's Avigdor Kahalani accused him of "using the lives of those Jews still living in Yemen for his own political purposes."

Mr. Sharon insisted he said nothing beyond what had already been reported in the media. He issued a statement saying, "the two leftists acted totally irresponsibly by drawing unneeded attention to the issue when in fact nothing new had been said."

"Such a revelation is an unprecedented, irresponsible act which could endanger the entire effort and the last remnants of the Yemeni Jewish community," said

Mr. Sarid.

"Ariel Sharon put political party needs above saving lives on the eve of elections," he told Israel Radio.

The Sunday Times of London reported in February that Israel planned a secret military operation to airlift hundreds of trapped Jews out of Yemen. Israeli officials declined comment at the time.

Israel's biggest newspaper Yedioth Ahronoth in an editorial called Mr. Sharon, a former defence minister, irresponsible. Senior security officials recently asked the media not to report on Israeli efforts for the Yemeni Jews.

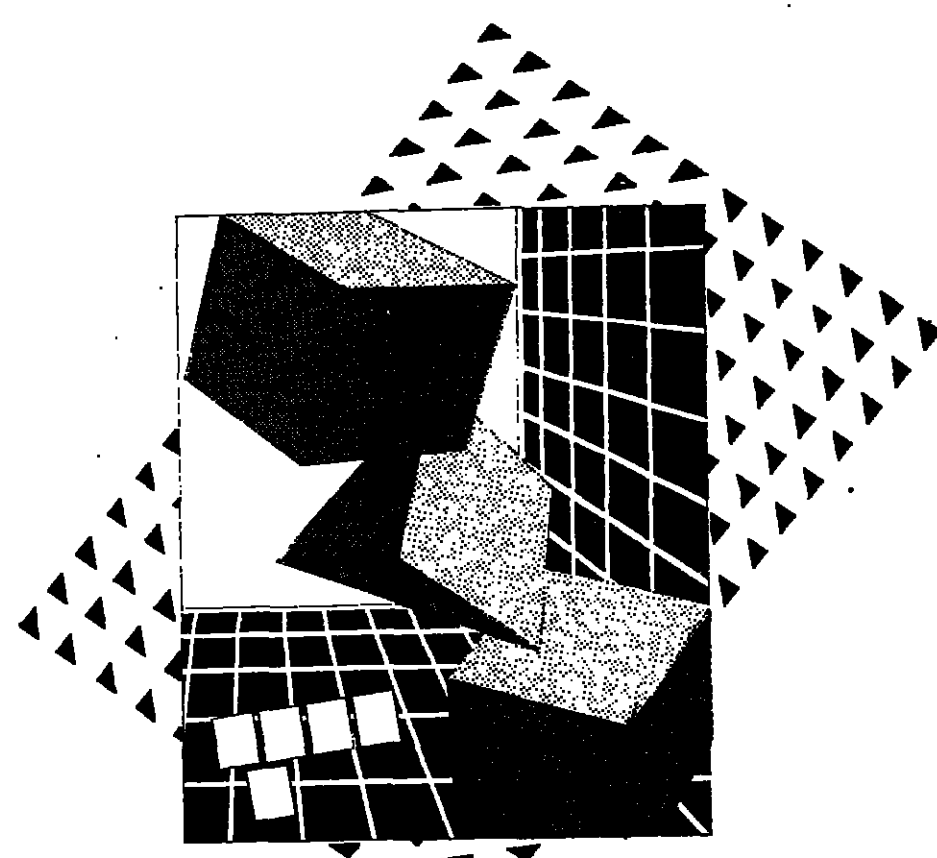
A militant founder of the Jew-

ish settler movement in the occupied West Bank who killed an innocent Palestinian has entered the election campaign.

Rabbi Moshe Levinger, 56, said his "Torah and Land" party would stand for the election vowing to hold on to the occupied Arab territories and crush the Palestinian revolt.

A court jailed Levinger for 10 weeks last year for shooting dead a Palestinian bystander after being stoned in the West Bank city of Hebron. Like many settlers, he carries a pistol.

Palestinians, whom he has called "dogs," consider Levinger provocative.



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Amman Marriott Hotel.

The restart Friday will be at 7 a.m. from the hotel towards the ninth special stage at Tuncbi, which is a repeat of special stage 1. Cars will then be heading to Swaqa and Hafira before reaching the 12th special stage at Al Hasa. Drivers will pass Jurf Al Darawish on the way to Fujuji before going on to the 14th special stage at Halasa and a regrouping halt at the Petra Forum Hotel by noon. The 15th stage will be 2.2 m. long and will drive to Beida and take the reverse direction through Halasa, Fujuji, Al Hasa, Hafira, Swaqa, and Tuncbi before completing the rally at the Marriott Hotel where the first car is due at 7:30 p.m.

A well equipped press centre has been set up at the hotel to give first hand information on the course of events. Many government institutions and private companies have cooperated to make the rally a success. They include the Customs Department, the Telecommunications Corporation, the Civil Defence Department, the Highway Police and the Ministry of Defence and Royal Jordanian, in addition to sponsors such as IBM, Okifax, C.A.T.S., Minolta, Nabresco, Jofico, Silk Cut, and the Marriott.

Spectators are asked to keep away from the course at special stages to ensure everyone's safety and get a better view.

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR FRIDAY MAY 22, 1992

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: You are now able to work out any emotional or romantic problems with unusual ease, especially if you go out of your way to build-up the ego of your loved one. Handle others with care.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) Considering the various duties you have is best organized and arranged early in the day since later arguments and disputes are in the path of your plans.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) Your career business judgment is excellent in the morning and it can remain so if you do not commit yourself to some unnecessary heavy expense.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) A confidential early talk with one who brings you considerable benefit later you get your hackles up unnecessary but don't argue.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) A good friend is the best one to approach early for some assistance with a venture but don't let a secret worry keep you from long forward.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) A day to be most conscientious in whatever is expected of you where anything of a civic, credit or commercial character is required and avoid the purely personal.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) This is the day when you would be wise to consider what a practical minded person of different views from yours suggests and don't argue with a public person.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) Get right with whomever you have any outstanding accounts and don't go off to that interesting new project till you have present matters under control.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) You certainly can persuade a usually difficult partner early in the day along with your views by using some tactful but not too obvious over specifics of such a plan.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Your steadfast attention to work early pays off big dividends in fine results but sidestep a flighty associate who takes too much of your time.

CAPRICORN: (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) The price of your pleasures should be carefully considered today and constant caution is needed in making waves with associates over tasks to be done.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) See that you understand the material needs of your family early in the day and don't yield to the desire to throw over everything for some temporary pleasure.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Deal early and in a down to earth manner with the goals of a correspondence, relies upon you for answers and don't let a family feud set you down.

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR THURSDAY MAY 21, 1992

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: A number of changes in personal or business relationships will require more detailed attention than you might think to be necessary. Obscure factors require constant monitoring.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) Whether at home, on the road, at shops, offices or places of business you find you can get your work load organised so it is much easier to do.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) You can quickly make whatever arrangements you wish by which you can have a very good time at whatever recreations you enjoy with congenial companions.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) Even while in the outside world consider what you can do to make your home more comfortable and free of stress that you would like it to be.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) Whatever you have in mind regarding finding the right word, phrase or paragraph to express yourself should come to your lips, pen quickly now.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) A very good day to get into all statements and accounts and to find more efficient methods by which you will be able to handle your finances.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) You like perfections and especially about yourself and where your surroundings are concerned so spruce up yourself so you feel good within.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) Think about the many private ways you like to improve your charm and appearance and concentrate upon utilizing them for that purpose today.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) The more exact you are in stating to others just what you want and how you want it is necessary to get anything like what those animates your desires.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) You have a mid-life crisis and need to get behind you and this is the right day to concentrate upon them and get the approval of those in power.

CAPRICORN: (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) You can make considerable progress with new inspiration by considering all the aspects of how to gain more data to prepare you for a definite commitment.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) Think about the various promises you have made and especially those of a practical nature and you can get them done in a highly satisfactory manner.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) You find that engaging in much conversation with a questioning person will give you get these persons wholehearted backing by direct answers.

THE BETTER HALF.

By Harris

HARRIS
4-28

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"Does garlic work on bill collectors or just vampires?"

JUMBLE.

THAT SCRAMBLES WORD GAME
— By Henri Arnold and Bob Lee

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.


SHURC

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MUPIO

TERIAP

ENBARN



**SOME SO-CALLED
"OPEN" MINDS
SHOULD BE CLOSED
FOR THIS.**

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Print answer here:

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's

Jumbles: CHEEK AIDED TREMOR INTACT

Answer: That optimist married his secretary because he thought he'd be able to continue to do this—
DICTATE TO HER

Today's

Jumbles: BURNED BURNED BURNED BURNED

Answer: That optimist married his secretary because he thought he'd be able to continue to do this—
DICTATE TO HER

THE Daily Crossword

by Frank R. Jackson

ACROSS

1 Ready money

5 Assigned position

9 Chastelin, for one

14 Legal doings

15 Reliquary

16 Edgar Poe

17 Fuel type

18 Campus VIP

19 Peruvian quacwad

20 Peter Sellers

21 Rick

23 Join at the altar

24 Unrused

25 Group of things

29 Hypocritical talk

31 Vehicle

34 Site

35 No-no

36 Source of poi

37 Bing Crosby suggestion

40 Unoriginal one

41 Part of QED

42 Worker's reward

43 Tich

44 Gone sans permission

45 Worker with

46 Comp. pt. — Luis Octeloso

47 Rupert Brooke

48 Work

53 Use a razor

56 Fence's blade

58 Join in

59 marmalading

60 Leg, plain

61 Mex. food

62 Great feast

63 Tar

64 Augury

DOWN

1 Tam-o'-shanter

2 Served a fast

3 Leading man

4 Fedora and Hornburg

5 Preests

6 Mountain nymph

7 Read carefully

8 Sharp taste

9 "Swan Lake"

10 Permit

11 European

12 Ditto

13 Stop — dime

15 Avian sound

22 Boredom

25 Spread out

26 Run to Grethe Green

27 Black and shiny

28 Cake decorator

29 Waterway

30 Aid in wrongdoing

31 Hut

32 Came up

33 Certain insect

35 Beginner

36 Companion

38 Ax welder

39 Cum — sails

40 Show backlogs

41 Natural ability

46 At no time

47 Foundry output

48 At that time

49 Possesses

50 Snigler's catch

51 Samson port

52 Overrule

53 Student's chore

54 Flat base

55 Theater sign

56 Large weight

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Yesterday's Puzzle Solvaid:

CASE	GAMA	ANIRIA
OLIA	ELAN	STUPP
ARAY	WARD	STAKE
TEENEE	SEED	WINTER
INTONE	SEAL	RETRIA
ABBO	SABARA	
BASIC	APSE	INAMA
USOIT	WEN	ASPER
SIAL	PIRT	CHAND
SEEFER	APSO	
ADITS	ORIS	FRANKS
BANTO	GATE	REVER
RYWER	ARLO	ARRAN
ASORE	TOMY	ERIE

AMMAN — The Roman amphitheatre in downtown Amman Thursday will witness the start of the 1992 Jordan International Rally in which 40 participants and their co-drivers will compete over two days in the second round of the Middle East Rally Championship.

Twenty-four competitors are representing Jordan, including two women's teams. Crews representing Cyprus, Lebanon, Qatar, Syria, Saudi Arabia, Czechoslovakia, and the United Arab Emirates, had all arrived in Amman by Tuesday and had training sessions on the special stages, which this year, will all be on desert ground.

The 40 participating cars have been grouped into two groups, depending on their homologation and cubic capacity. The results of groups A and N qualify for the Middle East Rally Championship, while the results of Groups A and S are eligible for the Jordan Drivers Open Championship.

The rally, organised by the Royal Automobile Club of Jordan (RACJ), under the patronage of His Royal Highness Prince Faisal Ibn Al Hussein, will be attended by the newly elected president of the International Motor Sports Federation (FISA), Max Mosley.

Rally officials are encouraged with the number of participants, especially that there are 23 cars in groups A and S.

"With the number of rally competitors down throughout the world, the entry list in the Jordan Rally is quite good, and there are many international and experienced drivers taking part," senior press officer Steve Fellows told the Jordan Times.

Mr. Fellows, a rally coverage specialist from Britain and has been coming to the Jordan Rally for several years, said he was very much impressed with the overall organisation and the facilities provided.

"I have been coming to this rally since 1983. However, I think this year is the best. Everyone has done a good job."

According to Mr. Fellows there are 150 officials, 14 of which come from Cyprus. A radio network will cover the entire course of the rally, which has 21 special stages and will be 975 kilometres long.

Hasan Ala'eddin, a member of the organising committee, said in a statement to the Jordan Times: "We hope all goes well. A lot of effort has been made to ensure the rally's success. So far everything has gone smoothly, and we are very happy with the number of participants."

In interviews with the Jordan Times, many participants agreed that this year's rally will be tough and very competitive, especially with the participation of well known favourites Abbas Musawi of Qatar, Mamdouh Khayyat of Saudi Arabia, Maurice Sahniw of Lebanon, and Dimitrios Mavropoulos of Cyprus, in addition to many top Jordanian competitors

like Naser Bustami, Marwan Abu Hamad, Remon Fleitfel, Ma'ruf Abu Samra and others.

Jordanian competitors, although some now being partly helped out by sponsors to cover their rally expenses, concluded that lack of proper sponsorship hinders any further progress or achievement of better results.

Jordan's Bishara Qu'or and co-driver Khaled Abu Ghazaleh will be competing in a Datsun 160 J SSS. "There's a need for a complete maintenance team to accompany any competitor if one would like to achieve the best results. This, of course, is lacking with Jordanian drivers because it needs funds. Nevertheless, we hope to achieve the best results," Qu'or and Abu Ghazaleh said.

Jordan's Marwan Abu Hamad with co-driver Khaled Zakarya in a Toyota Celica GT, have formed the Petra Rally team and have already participated in the Qatar Rally. They plan to compete in all rounds of the Middle East Rally Championship. Abu Hamad said: "We finished fourth in the Middle East Championship last season. We now aim at improving our standing."

Mamdouh Al Khayyat of Saudi Arabia, who finished second after Saeed Al Hajiri in the Middle East Championship said: "I'm aiming at winning the Middle East title. The Jordan rally will prove to be a very interesting event, as there are nearly six drivers competing for first place, which has never really happened before. It all depends on the second day of competition."

in her first international rally, seemed happy that there would be another women's team in the rally. "I'm glad there will be another ladies team, although I think Randa Al Nabulsi might have the advantage as she is more experienced. I hope we will finish the rally and show everyone that women's teams can successfully compete in this sport."

Qatar's Abbas Musawi with co-driver Benny Smith in a Toyota Celica GT4 are representing Al Shmoos Rally team and are favoured to win the Jordan Rally. Musawi said this rally was one of his favourites and he praised the overall organisation of the event. "The Jordan Rally is a pioneer among the Middle East rallies, with its meticulous organisation, stages, and excellent administration. The experience of the organisers is really paying off."

Musawi, who will be challenging Khayyat for the Middle East Championship title, admitted that the type of car used has a considerable advantage to a competitor. He pointed out that Jordanian drivers have the skill, and ability to win but lacked financial assistance.

In a press conference, Musawi commented on the level of Arab competitors compared to international drivers saying: "There's no abundance of rallies to further enhance the Arab drivers' experience. Nevertheless, I think we're doing OK although I think sponsors should play a greater role, and the organisers can do a lot to

Musawi also said that he would support the idea that if any Middle East Rally is considered to be part of the World Rally Championship, Jordan Rally would be a most suitable choice.

Christos Kyriakides, general manager of the Cyprus Auto Association (CAA) and clerk of the course of the Cyprus Rally, said Cypriot drivers had come with great expectations hoping to meet the best results.

At 12 noon Thursday, the first leg of the rally begins as competitors will set off from the Romar Amphitheatre in Amman and drive south to Tuneib near Queen Alia International Airport, then go further south to Swaga and Subeiban near Qatranah. They will then drive to Absa and Rababa near Karak before heading north to Madaba and Hwuwra and onto the last special stage of the day at Tuneib.

The first leg will be concluded by 7:30 p.m. when all cars will return to rally headquarters at the

Gascoigne scores 4 goals

LONDON (R) — Paul Gascoigne scored four goals in a special match to demonstrate his fitness to officials from his future Italian club Lazio. The England midfielder scored all his side's goals as they beat a team of fellow Tottenham players. Lazio Managing Director Lionello Colan, whose club have still to finalise the £5.5 million (\$10.1 million) transfer after Gascoigne suffered a serious knee injury during the 1991 FA Cup final, said after the 60-minute match: "I am very satisfied with Paul's performance. From what I can see it's just a question of him getting physically fit for 90 minutes but he's still the player we knew. "In our opinion Gascoigne is the best player in the world, and we have got him for a bargain price."

GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OWAN SHAMIR
& TAIWAN HIRSH

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MINE THE TRICK-LODE

Both vulnerable. West deals.

NORTH

♠ A 8 3

♥ 10 9 7

♦ 5 4 2

♣ 7 5 2

WEST

♠ K 4

♥ K Q 6 3

♦ J 8 7 3

♣ K 10 4

EAST

♠ 7 6

♥ 5 4 2

♦ K Q 10

♣ J 9 8 6

SOUTH

♠ K Q J 10 9 5 2

♥ Void

♦ 9 8 6

♣ A Q 3

The bidding:

West North East South

1 ♣ Pass 2 ♣ 4 ♠

Pass Pass

Opening lead: King of ♣

It is surprising when you can find a source of tricks. To paraphrase a popular song, South, declarer at four spades, went looking for tricks in all the wrong places and suffered a one-trick defeat in a cold contract.

With both the opponents active in the auction, South gave up all thoughts of alarm despite having by far the best playing hand at the table. A famous player once said that never in his life had he put down a dummy with a near solid seven-card spade suit. South undoubtedly subscribed to that view, so made a practical four-spade overcall rather than any possible com-

plications by starting with a takeout double or a cue-bid.

Declarer wanted no time in squandering dummy's hidden assets. After ruffing the opening lead, South drew two rounds of trumps ending in dummy, then tried the club finesse. When that lost, declarer could not avoid conceding two tricks in each minor suit for down one.

Declarer started out with mine sure tricks, and the 10th was in dummy just itching to be set up. It was overlooked because it was in the enemy suit.

The contract cannot be defeated if trumps are 2-1. After ruffing the first trick well, declarer should lead the king of spades and overtake with the ace. When both opponents follow, the contract is guaranteed.

The jack of hearts is led from the table and the ace of hearts, declarer discards a diamond. Suppose West shifts to that suit. Declarer wins, overtakes the five of trumps with the eight to lead the ten of hearts, discarding the remaining six, and then leads the king of hearts, almost loser from the closed hand. Declarer can still get to the board by leading the deuce of trumps to the try to discard a club on the now-established nine of hearts, and can try for the overtrick by hawking the club. The finesse loses, but 10 tricks are in the bank.

Peanuts

YOUR STUPID DOG TOOK MY BLANKET AGAIN! HOW DO I GET IT BACK WITHOUT A BIG FIGHT?

TRY GIVING HIM A COOKIE..

THAT'S A GOOD IDEA...

BUT WHAT'S HE DOING HERE ANYWAY? WHY DOESN'T HE STAY HOME?

I CAN'T HEAR YOU.. I THINK THE LINE HAS GONE DEAD..

4-15

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Andy Capp

GOODNIGHT, DARLIN!

DON'T WORRY, SWEETHEART, SHE'S WELL DOWN THE LIST

WHO'S WORRIED?

SHE'LL NEVER MOVE UP TO NUMBER ONE - THERE'S TOO MANY PIGEONS IN THE WAY

5/22/92 COVERLY

Mutt'n' Jeff

TELL YOU AN OCK BUT HERE'S NICE CLUCK!

O.K. I'LL TAKE IT!

HEY! WHAT CHA WANT THE WHOLE ROAD? MOVE OVER FISH FACE!

ONE MORE INSULTING OUT OF YOU AND I'LL FLATTEN YOUR PRETTY NOSE!

COO COO!

SH-SH

G. DE BEAUMONT

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Financial Markets

U.S. Dollar in International Markets

Currency	New York Close	Tokyo Close
Sterling Pound	1.8385	1.8365
Deutsche Mark	1.5907	1.5920
Swiss Franc	1.4600	1.4628
French Franc	5.3470	5.3625
Japanese Yen	129.80	129.22
European Currency Unit	1.2896	1.2865

European Interest Rates Date: 20.5.1992

Currency	1 MONTH	3 MONTHS	6 MONTHS	12 MONTHS
U.S. Dollar	3.75	3.71	4.37	4.37
Sterling Pound	9.75	9.81	9.93	9.75
Deutsche Mark	9.62	9.68	9.68	9.62
Swiss Franc	9.37	9.50	8.75	8.75
French Franc	9.81	9.81	9.78	9.75
Japanese Yen	4.71	4.69	4.61	4.57
European Currency Unit	10.06	10.00	10.06	10.06

Freeboard Metals Date: 20.5.1992

Metal	US\$/Oz	DM/Gm	Metal	US\$/Oz	DM/Gm
Gold	357.70	6.65	Silver	4.08	.090

21 Karat

Currency	Bid	Offer
U.S. Dollar	0.6760	-0.6780
Sterling Pound	1.2375	1.2637
Deutsche Mark	0.6230	0.6251
Swiss Franc	0.6608	0.6631
French Franc	0.1258	0.1264
Japanese Yen	0.5221	0.5267
Dutch Guilder	0.3755	0.3776
Swedish Krona	0.1178	0.1180
Italian Lira	0.0562	0.0565
Belgian Franc	0.0257	0.0267

Other Currencies Date: 20.5.1992

Currency	Bid	Offer
Bahraini Dinar	1.2600	1.7710
Laotian Lira	0.0386	0.0420
Saudi Riyal	0.1810	0.1810
Kuwaiti Dinar	0.1810	0.1810
Qatari Riyal	0.1810	0.1810
Egyptian Pound	0.2100	0.2220
Omani Riyal	1.7200	1.7400
UAE Dirham	0.1810	0.1810
Greek Drachma	0.3339	0.3739
Cypriot Pound	1.4870	1.5000

CAB Indices for Amman Financial Market

Index	19.5.1992 Close	18.5.1992 Close
All-Share	163.26	166.13
Banking Sector	105.81	105.04
Insurance Sector	132.44	131.22
Industry Sector	195.24	197.70
Services Sector	184.00	181.81

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midsession on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Wednesday.

One Sterling	1.8338/48	U.S. dollar	0.5450/55
One U.S. dollar	1.1950/55	Canadian dollar	1.5955/65
	1.7965/75	Deutsche mark	1.4652/62
	1.4652/62	Dutch guilder	32.80/84
	32.80/84	Swiss franc	5.3650/700
	5.3650/700	Belgian franc	1200/1201
	1200/1201	French franc	129.35/45
	129.35/45	Italian lire	5.7500/50
	5.7500/50	Japanese yen	6.2280/330
	6.2280/330	Swedish crown	6.1680/730
	6.1680/730	Norwegian crown	\$337.65
One ounce of gold	\$337.65	Danish crown	

Saudis cheat U.S. businesses

WASHINGTON (R) — Saudi businessmen, including members of the royal family, are cheating U.S. companies out of hundreds of millions of dollars by flouting contracts and refusing to arbitrate disputes, lawmakers said Wednesday.

The legislators accused President George Bush of turning a blind eye to protect U.S.-Saudi ties. They warned the Saudi government that action must be taken within 30 days or else they would press legislation to force the Saudis' hand.

"Many American companies have suffered and continue to suffer. We want to put the plight of several American companies higher on the bilateral agenda," representative Lee Hamilton, an Indiana Democrat, told the House of Representatives foreign affairs subcommittee on Europe and the Middle East. Representatives and senators who have pursued disputes on behalf of companies told of cases stretching back years in which Saudi Arabia executives refused to honor contracts or settle the disputes through arbitration.

There are at least 18 major unsettled cases, involving 14 U.S. companies with claims of about \$500 million, said Karl Reiner, an acting deputy assistant secretary at the Commerce Department.

Disputes over building contracts account for most of the cases. Three involve U.S. banks, two relate to engineering services and the rest of the complaints centre on non-payment for supplies and materials, he said.

One Westinghouse claim totaled more than \$150 million. Representative James Traficant, an Ohio Democrat, told of one U.S. building firm — Youngstown, Ohio-based Bucheit International Co. — embroiled for years in a dispute with a Saudi prince.

"His position has kept him from facing any repercussions for

his actions," said Mr. Traficant, while the Ohio firm has been "virtually wiped out" due to the Saudi deal.

Bucheit contracted in 1981 to build a shopping mall in Riyadh and finished the job according to orders, he said.

Some payments, however, were never made and Bucheit was ultimately left about \$11.6 million short, Mr. Traficant said. He backs legislation that would condition any arms sales to Saudi Arabia on its adoption of fair arbitration.

Representative Bill Emerson, a Missouri Republican, said a New Jersey engineering company, Sanderson Porter, had lost more than \$100 million due to Saudi foul play.

Mr. Emerson said if no action is taken on the undisputed debts within 30 days, Congress should launch a full investigation into U.S.-Saudi ties and their impact on Americans.

Government officials denied they were putting strategic goals ahead of U.S. interests and said they had repeatedly pressed Saudi Arabia, a major oil producer, to address the long-standing complaints.

"These individual disputes have not been subjugated to some sort of larger strategic interest," said David Mack, a deputy assistant secretary at the State Department.

He called the commercial wrangle "a top-agenda item" for the U.S. embassy in Riyadh but said problems were inevitable given the scale of U.S.-Saudi trade.

U.S. exports to Saudi Arabia totaled \$6.5 billion last year against Saudi imports of \$12.1 billion.

"Unfortunately, in our view, the adaptation of Saudi Arabia's commercial law has not kept with its great economic strides," said Mr. Reiner.

Russia raises market rate for rouble

MOSCOW (R) — The Russian Central Bank raised its fixed "market rate" for the rouble Wednesday, offering 90 roubles for a U.S. dollar instead of 100 as in the past.

The central bank wants to drive the rouble higher against the dollar as it prepares to float an unloved currency on world markets.

It has sold dollars for roubles at

Rich countries vow trade deal to boost growth

PARIS (R) — Ministers from the leading developed countries have vowed to work for a speedy conclusion to long-running world trade talks in order to boost economic growth and reduce unemployment.

In a statement summing up their two-day annual meeting in Paris, Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) ministers issued a stark warning about the consequences of failure of the GATT talks to lower trade barriers.

"Without forthright movement toward market-opening measures and a strengthened set of enforceable and predictable rules, international trading relations run the risk of fragmentation, conflict and inefficiency," they said.

The so-called Uruguay Round of trade talks, held under the auspices of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT), have stalled on disagreements between the United States and European Community on farm subsidies, in particular.

OECD Secretary General Jean-Claude Paye suggested agreement was now in sight after nearly six years of tortuous talks.

"The Uruguay Round is probably in the same position as the three ships of Columbus just before he discovered America," Mr. Paye said.

Norwegian Finance Minister Sigbjorn Johnsen, who chaired the meeting, said every speaker had endorsed early acceptance of a compromise plan tabled by GATT Director-General Arthur Dunkel.

"We want to get a good agreement and get it soon," U.S. Commerce Secretary Barbara Franklin said.

Delay in completing the trade talks has coincided with a downturn in the world economy and a rise in unemployment in OECD countries to around 30 million from 25 million two years ago.

Activity is now picking up, but sluggishly. The 24-nation OECD is forecasting just 1.8 per cent growth this year, and ministers are looking to a trade deal to lead a hand.

German Economics Minister Juergen Moellmann said a deal, which he hoped could be concluded by mid-June, would give a shot in the arm to the whole world economy.

"This holds true for successfully integrating the central and eastern European countries into the world economy as well as for the developing countries which must have the privilege of free market access in the industrial countries," he said.

Western countries facing social problems at home are also looking to the GATT talks for relief.

"A quick, successful resolution is essential to meet, for example, the challenges on unemployment," Norway's Johnsen said.

Although the meeting has billed as a chance to start an onslaught on unemployment, many senior ministers did not bother to show up. The only finance minister from the Group of Seven countries to put in an appearance was Michel Sapin of France.

Asked if their absence devalued the meeting, Mr. Paye replied curtly: "I think you should direct your question to those that didn't attend."

Some officials suggested the absentees were suffering from "meeting fatigue," the result of too many international summits.

Perhaps some countries were tired of being chastised. Germany was asked by ministers for a better policy mix — not rely on the blunt instrument of monetary policy to contain inflation — while Japan, with its budget surplus, was urged to pump up its economy by boosting government spending.

Iraq harvesters working flat out on farms

BAGHDAD (R) — Iraq, battling with U.N. sanctions, has said 908 combine harvesters were working round the clock to reap this year's harvest.

Al Jumhuriyah, the government newspaper said harvest was in full swing throughout the country and government silos were ready to receive the produce. It said the yields were promising but gave no details.

"Huge quantities of wheat and barley have been ferried to government silos," the newspaper said.

Al Jumhuriyah said the ministry of agriculture promised grain collectors hefty financial rewards. "Contests will be arranged between villages and districts to collect as much wheat and barley as possible. Distinguished grain collectors will be honoured," it said.

Iraq's government is trying hard not to let this year's grain fall into private hands. Last month President Saddam Hussein ordered bonuses totalling 6.5 million dinars (\$19 million at the official rate) to barley and wheat collectors.

He also offered farmers increases in prices of wheat and barley.

Labouring under punitive U.N. sanctions because of its 1990 invasion of Kuwait, Iraq pins great hope on this year's grain yields to maintain its rationing system.

It needs almost three million tonnes of wheat to provide each Iraqi with eight kilograms of flour per month at subsidised prices.

Meanwhile, Iraq's agriculture minister, attending a regional conference of the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) in Tehran, said the Gulf war had devastated Iraqi agriculture.

"The American and allied aggression on Iraq last year ruined the country's infrastructure, destroying 50 per cent of the cereal and seed stock and halting 95 per cent of livestock and poultry breeding," Iran's IRNA news agency quoted Abdul Wahab Mahmoud Al Sabbagh as saying.

He said allied raids destroyed some 87 per cent of bridges in agricultural areas. Electricity shortages due to bombing of power plants and pollution resulting from the six-week war last year caused further damage to agriculture, the minister added.

Corporate failures increase in Japan

TOKYO (R) — Japan's bankruptcy debt in April rose as an increasing number of companies were driven under by the nation's slack economy, the Tokyo Commerce and Industry Research Co. has said.

"We're still seeing bubble bankruptcies," but failures caused by bad business are starting to stand out more and more," said an analyst for Tokyo Commerce and Industry Research (TCIR), a private think tank.

"Bubble bankruptcies" — failure of companies based on stocks and real estate — have followed the heyday of Japan's "bubble economy" that was buoyed by skyrocketing stocks and real estate prices in the late 1980s.

Corporate bankruptcies involving debt of more than 10 million yen (\$77,500) each totalled 976.59 billion yen (\$7.57 billion) in April, when 1,239 companies went under, the TCIR report said.

The debt amount was a record high for April and the third highest for any single month. The number of April bankruptcies was the largest monthly figure since December, 1986.

Bubble bankruptcies declined in April and failures owing to bad business rose to 51.2 per cent of the total, the report said.

Falling prices pushed property

companies under and real estate bankruptcies jumped to 115 cases with bad debts of 294.35 billion yen (\$2.28 billion), the TCIR analyst said.

With the economy slowing and profits plunging, Japanese companies are slashing investment in plant and equipment and buying less or no property.

"So real estate companies are being dragged down by burdensome inventories as well as lower prices, in spite of lower interest rates and easier lending regulations," the analyst pointed out.

Analysts say bankruptcies are likely to continue increasing in number in the months ahead with a mounting knock-on effect.

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Azeri leader wants to quit CIS

MOSCOW (Agencies) — Azeri presidential favourite Abulfaz Elchibey, who wants to withdraw from the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS), says all Azerbaijan's agreements with the grouping are invalid.

"I do not accept the CIS and consider that states which join it are not really independent," the Popular Front leader said in a newspaper interview published Wednesday.

"Azerbaijan will not be part of the current CIS, there are no two ways about it."

Mr. Elchibey, opinion poll favourite to win presidential elections scheduled for June 7, said Azerbaijan's relations with Russia must be governed by bilateral treaties.

Ex-President Ayaz Muttalibov was a supporter of the Commonwealth, formed by Russia and 10 of the 15 other former Soviet republics last December. Mr. Muttalibov was ousted after mass Popular Front protests last week.

"All agreements signed by Muttalibov are invalid because parliament has not ratified them," Mr. Elchibey told the newspaper Komsomolskaya Pravda. "We consider this a short-sighted policy of the former president."

He said a three-man commission had been formed which would fly to Moscow to discuss bilateral issues.

Mr. Elchibey said Azerbaijan's undeclared war with Armenia over the enclave of Nagorno-Karabakh could be resolved despite recent Azeri defeats.

"If states such as Turkey, the United States, Russia and Ukraine really apply themselves

to resolving the conflict, then the Karabakh problem ... will be resolved," he said.

Nagorno-Karabakh, the scene of four years of increasingly bitter fighting, is located within and administered by Azerbaijan, but populated largely by Armenians.

Meanwhile Armenian forces hurled fresh tank and artillery bombardments against the Azeri region of Nakhichevan on the Turkish border Wednesday, an official of the enclave said. "The Armenians are again attacking today. Our fighters are responding," Ramiz Mamedov, an aide to President Geidar Aliyev told Reuters by telephone from the besieged enclave.

He said the Armenians were firing from 10 kilometres away from a bridge crossing with Turkey, the beleaguered enclave's only link to the west.

Fourteen Azeris had been killed and nearly 70 wounded since the Armenians Monday began shelling Sadarak, a town of 14,000 people in the north of the enclave close to the Turkish border, Mr. Mamedov said.

Turkey's semi-official Anatolian News Agency said Azeri fighters Tuesday regained two strategic hills near the besieged town which they lost to Armenians Monday.

Quoting sources in the Nakhichevan parliament, the agency said the Armenians had been pushed back across the border but were keeping up a barrage of fire from their territory.

Mr. Aliyev, president of the autonomous region sandwiched between Turkey, Armenia and Iran, told Anatolia Tuesday he

had spoken with Armenian President Levon Ter-Petrosyan by telephone and received a promise that the attacks would end.

Mr. Aliyev said a rocket fired on Sadarak, possibly from a Nakhichevan garrison of Russian troops of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS), could be a chemical weapon.

The rocket caused no deaths, but burns and blisters on the injured suggested that it carried a chemical payload, he said.

Mr. Mamedov said the Azeris were short of medical supplies and would like to send their wounded to Turkish hospitals.

Mr. Aliyev's chief aide Gaffar Riza crossed into Turkey early Wednesday for talks with Turkish officials in Ankara, Anatolia said.

Civilians have been evacuated from Sadarak but Azeri fighters remain and volunteers aged between 15 to 60 were on their way from other parts of Nakhichevan, the agency said.

Turkey has condemned the Armenian attacks and the capture of the Azeri town of Lachin which secured a land corridor to Armenia proper from Nagorno-Karabakh, another Azeri enclave earlier overrun by Armenian forces.

"(Turkish) troops must be sent to Nakhichevan immediately," President Turgut Ozal was quoted by the Hurriyet newspaper as saying in the United States where he is recovering from surgery.

Prime Minister Suleyman Demirel, wary of involving Turkey in the Caucasian conflict, has said: "You can't resort to arms

every time there is a dispute." Turkey is continuing diplomatic efforts to mobilise international support to end the fighting.

Iran demanded Wednesday that Armenia relinquish the captured Azeri town of Lachin which has been used to open a corridor to besieged Nagorno-Karabakh, the Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA) reported.

Tehran has been in the forefront of efforts to broker a peace agreement in the 4-year-old feud between Armenia and Azerbaijan over Nagorno-Karabakh.

Tehran fears the spread of the conflict across its northern border to its own large Azeri population and minority Armenians.

Iran Tuesday condemned Armenia for capturing Lachin, which has been used by Armenia to open a key overland route to the beleaguered enclave.

The Iranian Foreign Ministry said in a statement Wednesday that the "violation of sovereignty and territorial integrity of one of the involved parties, is contrary to the spirit of the Iranian mediatory mission and the previous agreements reached on ending the clashes."

"Tehran will consider any change in the geographical borders of the region and resort to coercion and violence as acts of aggression," IRNA quoted the statement as saying.

Iranian newspaper joined officials in condemning the Armenian move.

Parliament speaker, Mehdi Karubi, said that the escalation of clashes would have negative consequences for the region and would exacerbate differences, Tehran Radio reported.

Ramos widens lead in Philippine elections

MANILA (AP) — Fidel Ramos widened his lead for the presidency Wednesday but an ally of Ferdinand Marcos surged near second place as questions emerged about the tally from the May 11 election.

Nine days after the balloting, fewer than half the votes had been counted. Officials blamed the delay on vote challenges and logistical problems.

But anti-graft crusader Miriam Defensor Santiago, trailing in second place, claimed the delays were part of a massive conspiracy to rig the election for Gen. Ramos, President Corazon Aquino's candidate.

Officials were unable to answer some of the allegations, but Mrs. Santiago failed to provide anything concrete linking the administration to systematic electoral fraud.

The long tally and uncertainty about the outcome have raised fears of a constitutional crisis, which could lead to violence and a possible military takeover.

After tabulating 42.8 per cent of the vote, media citizens Quick Count said Gen. Ramos was leading with 2,401,894 votes, or 23.8 per cent, a slight increase.

Mrs. Santiago trailed with 1,843,992 votes, or 18.23 per cent. Businessman Eduardo "Danding" Cojuangco had 1,736,320, or 17.11 per cent.

Earlier, Quick Count's figure had showed less than 50 votes separating Mrs. Santiago and Mr. Cojuangco after an influx of tabulations from Marcos strongholds in northern Luzon.

Less than 25 per cent of the votes from Metropolitan Manila have been reported. Quick Count blames the delay on technical complications and legal challenges involving local races, which have held up tabulations.

Mrs. Santiago and Gen. Ramos are believed stronger than Mr. Cojuangco among Manila-area voters.

Serious questions were raised regarding aspects of the count, including the fact that a partial tally showed a total of 8.3 million votes for the seven presidential candidates, and only 7.5 million votes for their vice presidential running mates.

Voters made their presidential and vice presidential choice separately on a single ballot. Raul Locsin, vice chairman of Quick Count, said some people may have chosen not to vote for the vice president, although the running mates were rationally prominent and campaigned as extensively as the standard-bearers.

Last Saturday, Quick Count reported 117,122 votes had been tabulated from Region 2, a seven-province area of northeastern Luzon. But the totals credited to all seven presidential candidates in the region amounted to more than 119,700 votes.

On Tuesday, Mrs. Santiago told Washington radio station WAMU that she had evidence implicating officials close to Mrs. Aquino in efforts to pressure local leaders as the vote is being reported.

"I have direct proof that will link Ramos' party to electoral fraud," Mrs. Santiago said.

She said she would detail her allegations at a news conference in Manila Wednesday. During the news conference, her staff raised questions about the count but offered no direct evidence of a centralised conspiracy.

The staff showed reporters copies of tally sheets from Gen. Ramos' home province, Pangasinan, which appeared to have undergone tampering to show Gen. Ramos with more votes than had actually been cast.

Mrs. Santiago's campaign manager, Antonio Leviste, said Mrs. Aquino telephoned three governors after the balloting and told them to do everything possible to ensure a Ramos victory.



A Bosnian woman mourns at her husband's grave with a relative in Sarajevo

Refugees held hostage in Sarajevo stand-off

BELGRADE (R) — Some 7,000 women, children and elderly refugees entered their second day as hostages of Serb gunmen Wednesday in the Bosnian capital of Sarajevo.

Their fate was in question as the overall situation in Bosnia-Herzegovina deteriorated, with the republic's Muslim leaders saying they would not attend European Community (EC) sponsored peace talks in Lisbon.

"No one is going," said Hajrudin Somun, a senior adviser to Bosnian President Alija Izetbegovic, explaining neither the EC nor the Serb-led Yugoslav army could give satisfactory guarantees of safe passage.

He said the Serbs had not fulfilled conditions set previously by the EC, including ceasing hostilities, while the Yugoslav army still controlled Sarajevo Airport.

"President Izetbegovic is not abandoning talks in principle but he sees no possibility of going today," Mr. Somun told Reuters by telephone from Sarajevo.

He said intense negotiations were under way to secure safe passage for the estimated 7,000

refugees who had been trying to flee in a convoy from the fighting in the Bosnian capital.

The army and the Serbs say the release of the convoy depends on the unblocking of the army's huge Marshall Tito Barracks in central Sarajevo, he added.

Most of those being held are Muslims.

The Belgrade-based news agency Tanjug said the convoy had been stopped in the southern suburb of Ildiza by the families of Serbs killed in another suburb, Potolici, who demanded to be allowed to collect the dead.

"The convoy is still in Ildiza," Mr. Somun said. "The army has now linked its release to evacuating the Marshall Tito Barracks which by any international norms is unacceptable."

"We have, however, accepted it. So the release of the civilians and the withdrawal from the barracks should begin simultaneously. But we don't know when this will begin because the army keeps creating new conditions."

In addition to troops, the families of army officers have taken refuge in the barracks.

Clinton, Bush win in Oregon, Washington

PORTLAND, Oregon (R) — U.S. President George Bush and Democratic front-runner Bill Clinton swept to victory in an Oregon primary and a Washington state contest Wednesday.

The result brings them closer to a November showdown in which both could be upstaged by Texas billionaire Ross Perot, a potentially more popular rival who did not appear on the ballot.

Both Mr. Bush and Mr. Clinton had been expected to win in the two northwest states, which are considered key results for any White House general election win.

In Oregon's Democratic primary the Arkansas governor led rival Jerry Brown by a 52 to 33 per cent margin with 34 per cent of the vote counted. Former Massachusetts Senator Paul Tsongas pulled 11 per cent of the votes although he has suspended his bid for the Democratic nomination.

Mr. Bush was overwhelming right-wing rival Pat Buchanan by a 76 to 22 per cent vote in the state's Republican primary with 29 per cent of precincts reporting.

He took an 83 to 13 per cent lead in neighbouring Washington state, with just over half the votes counted.

In a Washington state preference poll which will not count

towards convention delegates, Mr. Clinton led Mr. Brown, the former California governor, by 52 per cent to 28 per cent after half the votes had been counted.

Mr. Ross Perot, a likely independent candidate in the Nov. 3 election who was on the Oregon and Washington state ballots, has led Mr. Bush and Mr. Clinton in polls nationally and in key states such as California and Texas.

Exit polls found as many as 11 per cent of voters in both parties cast write-in ballots for Perot in the Oregon contest, although these ballots will not be officially counted.

An opinion poll last week in Oregon said Mr. Perot led both candidates with the backing of 42 per cent of voters compared with 31 per cent for Mr. Bush and 21 per cent for Mr. Clinton.

A Cable News Network exit poll in Oregon Tuesday found Democrats favoured Mr. Perot to their own front-runner by a 45 to 41 per cent margin, while Republicans favoured Mr. Bush over Mr. Perot by 49 to 40 per cent.

Mr. Clinton told reporters after a fundraiser in Austin, Texas, he was satisfied with the results and was not surprised by the apparent outpouring of support for Mr. Perot.

Arrest order for Marcos upheld despite apology

MANILA (R) — A Philippine judge froze an order for the arrest of Imelda Marcos Wednesday after the flamboyant former first lady apologised for boycotting a court hearing.

Defiant one day and compliant the next, Mrs. Marcos promised to appear at her arraignment on currency violation charges Thursday. But she said she would not enter a plea because she did not expect justice under President Corazon Aquino's government.

The 62-year-old widow of the late dictator Ferdinand Marcos had earlier told reporters she would boycott all court proceedings in protest at alleged fraud in May 11 presidential elections.

Mrs. Marcos, one of seven presidential candidates, is trailing in fifth place in the vote-counting. Judge Teresita Flores had ordered Mrs. Marcos' arrest after she failed to appear for a court hearing Tuesday at which she was to have been arraigned.

Mass arrests reported in riot-torn Nigerian state

KADUNA, Nigeria (R) — Security forces, including soldiers in combat gear, have arrested nearly 250 people in a major crackdown after some of Nigeria's worst religious and ethnic violence in a decade, police sources said Wednesday.

The sources said 248 people were being held after four days of rioting in Kaduna state, political centre of Nigeria's mainly Muslim north. The south is largely Christian.

Residents, who said up to 300 people had been killed, reported minor disturbances before Tuesday's overnight curfew.

"The crisis is under control ... I am asking people to report troublemakers," Vice-Admiral Murtala Nyako, Nigeria's deputy chief of defence staff, was quoted as

saying by local radio.

"Nigeria is a secular state, which means all its people are free to engage in any legitimate activities anywhere," he said.

Some shops and other businesses in Kaduna City remained shut Wednesday as security forces patrolled streets where thousands of rioters caused mayhem Sunday and Monday.

Mortuaries in Kaduna City overflowed with corpses, some of them mutilated beyond recognition. At least 46 bodies were seen in an unrefrigerated room at one mortuary.

The final toll, including hundreds of injured, will probably never be known. Many Muslims buried their dead immediately and some Christians did not declare relatives' bodies to officials.

WORLD NEWS IN BRIEF

India launches space satellite

NEW DELHI (R) — India launched a research satellite Wednesday using local technology in what officials called an important milestone in the country's ambitious space programme. A 23-metre (75-foot) rocket blasted off at 6 a.m. (0030 GMT) from an island off the southern state of Andhra Pradesh, the Press Trust of India (PTI) said. Nine minutes into the flight, the 200-million-rupee (\$7-million) rocket propelled a research satellite into orbit 450 kilometres above Earth. India's space programme has crossed "a very important milestone", U.R. Rao, chairman of the Indian Space Research Organisation told reporters in Sriharikota where the launch took place. Mr. Rao said the flight was "a total success". Two earlier launches, in 1987 and 1988, failed when the rockets splashed into the sea.

CNN launches Russian service

MOSCOW (R) — The U.S.-based Cable News Network (CNN) will launch a live Russian language service. ITAR-TASS News Agency said. It said a daily, two-hour news programme from 10 p.m. to midnight is being set up in conjunction with the independent Moscow Broadcasting Company. Moscow Mayor Gavril Popov and CNN President Ted Turner attended the inauguration ceremony for the service, TASS said.

TB on the rise worldwide

MIAMI (R) — Tuberculosis, the dreaded "white plague," is again on the rise, the American Lung Association (ALA) has warned, saying that more than one third of the world's population now carry the TB bacteria. Tuberculosis kills more people than any other infectious disease, said Dr. John Garrison, ALA managing director. Unless changes are made in treatment and follow-up therapy, TB could become a household word in diseases, he said. "More than eight million new cases of tuberculosis occur worldwide, and nearly three million people die annually from the disease," said Dr. Richard O'Brien, medical officer for the World Health Organisation. "Among the 20 million (cases of TB in the world today), fewer than half are diagnosed. Of those diagnosed, fewer than half are successfully treated," he said. The National Centres for Disease Control (CDC) reported 26,283 new active cases of TB in the United States in 1991, a 2.3 per cent increase over 1990 and an 11.9 per cent increase since 1989.

Harsh repression in Tibet — Amnesty

LONDON (R) — Amnesty International called on China Wednesday to release all prisoners of conscience and give its political prisoners a prompt and fair trial or free them too. The human rights group also urged the Chinese government to take steps to stop torture and killings by security forces. Government opponents in Tibet were arbitrarily arrested and frequently tortured as Chinese authorities cracked down on opposition, Amnesty said. "Harsh repression has led to serious and longstanding human rights violations in Tibet," the London-based group said. "Tibetans who speak out against the Chinese government are at risk of imprisonment, possibly for years, and torture." It said in a statement: "Those who take part in peaceful demonstrations for Tibetan independence from China have been killed, targeted by security forces." Amnesty said that amongst those imprisoned and tortured were Buddhist monks and nuns who advocated Tibetan independence. Some were arrested and held without charge for weeks, months or even years while others were eventually tried and received stiff sentences.

Moldova blasts Russian 'aggression'

MOSCOW (R) — Moldova, racked by ethnic conflict between Romanian-speakers and Slavs, accused Russia Wednesday of direct military aggression and appealed to the outside world for help. President Mircea Snegur accused the former Soviet 14th Army, now under Russian jurisdiction, of deploying tanks, armoured vehicles and heavy artillery in support of Slav separatists who have declared independence from Moldova. He complained of "blatant aggression" and called on Commonwealth heads of state to "support us at a decisive moment in the establishment of the Republic of Moldova." Most of the former Soviet Republic of Moldova was part of Romania until the start of World War II when it was annexed by Soviet dictator Josef Stalin. But Slavs on the east bank of the Dniester River, never historically

part of Romania, want to break away from the rest of the country, fearing that possible reunification between Moldova and Romania would leave them a vulnerable minority. In Moscow, Commonwealth Armed Forces Commander Yevgeny Shaposhnikov insisted the 14th Army remained neutral in the fighting, which has killed well over 100 people since March.

De Klerk shocked by corruption

CAPE TOWN (R) — President F.W. de Klerk said he is shocked by corruption in the government but defends his low-key response to disclosure of fraud in a key apartheid department. "Like you, I was shocked by the vast corruption that there is. But it is not the system that is corrupt, the powers of departments were not adequate and we are correcting that," he told political reporters in a confidential briefing Tuesday. Mr. De Klerk authorised publication of his remarks after a local newspaper reported them Wednesday. Responding to a report by Supreme Court Judge Benjamin Piekard on corruption in the former Department of Development Aid, which arranged funding for black homelands created by apartheid, Mr. De Klerk said he did not want South Africa to "create an impression of ourselves as a banana republic." "Who appointed the Piekard Commission? I did. And quite a number of people have been charged in our courts. Unfortunately for those who wanted to see blood, the courts couldn't find them guilty," he said.

Officer expresses sorrow for U.S. riot

LOS ANGELES (R) — The white police officer who will be retried in the beating of black motorist Rodney King denied, in a newspaper column published Wednesday, that he is racist. Officer Laurence Powell said in the Los Angeles Times column that his girlfriend is Hispanic and his family has cared for black and Hispanic foster children. He also expressed sorrow for the riots that erupted when he and three other officers were cleared of assault charges. Mr. Powell's remarks were included in a videotape he made after the verdicts "to let you know how sad I feel about this horrible situation." They were transcribed for the times by a man who helped Mr. Powell make the tape. A jury acquitted three officers completely on April 29 and cleared Mr. Powell of all charges except one of using excessive force, on which it deadlocked. The riots touched off by the verdicts killed 51 people, injured thousands and caused more than \$750 million in damage. Last week, a judge ordered Mr. Powell to stand trial again on the deadlocked charge.

More refugees arrive in Bangladesh

DHAKA (R) — More than 1,000 Burmese Muslims have fled into Bangladesh in the past two days, claiming continuing persecution by Burma's troops despite Rangoon's assurances to the contrary, officials said Wednesday. "We don't find any resemblance in their words and deeds," said refugee Shahed Ali of Buthidaung district in west Burma's Muslim-majority Arakan state. Mr. Ali and about 300 other refugees reached Bangladesh's Teknaf border town Tuesday, bringing the total number of Burmese refugees in the country to 257,187. "The (Burmese) junta is still torturing the women and herding away their husbands and sons to labour camps," refugee Hasina Begum said. Such stories abound with the new influx of refugees after a virtual halt of three days, apparently because of tight security on the Burmese border.

New Zealander dies after killing 6

PUKEKOHE, New Zealand (R) — A 66-year old farmer suffering from depression shot dead six family members and then killed himself Wednesday, sparking a massive manhunt while a granddaughter barricaded herself in the house. Brian Schlaepfer killed his wife, three sons, a daughter-in-law and 11-year-old grandson early in the day after a domestic dispute that had simmered since the weekend. He ran a long-established family farm and vegetable shop in the tiny settlement of Helvetia near Pukekohe (pronounced Pook-e-ko-wee) about 50 kilometres south of Auckland. "There was some kind of domestic upheaval which has led to this. We are still trying to work out exactly what the background is to this," police spokesman Senior Sergeant Graham Bell told reporters at the scene. Neighbours reported being told by Schlaepfer's wife that he was becoming unstable.

Study backs commission on JFK killing

NEW YORK (R) — Two doctors who performed the autopsy on John F. Kennedy broke a 25-year silence to say the U.S. president was killed by two bullets fired from above and behind by a lone gunman using a high-powered rifle.

In detailed comments released by the Journal of the American Medical Association, pathologists James Humes and J. Thornton Boswell spoke out in hopes of ending a national debate, fuelled by the film JFK, that maintains Kennedy was killed in a conspiracy.

The doctors endorsed the conclusions of the official Warren Commission probe into the assassination. They said all evidence showed Mr. Kennedy was hit by two bullets in the back of the head fired by a lone gunman

using a rifle.

The journal presented their conclusions at a news conference which was not attended by either doctor. Their findings were immediately challenged by a leading supporter of the theory that Kennedy was murdered in a conspiracy.

The journal's editor, Dr. George Lundberg, lashed out at conspiracy proponents who he said were trying to win publicity and profit from a president's death.

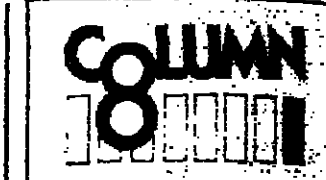
"The best explanations for the motivation of the myriad conspiracy theorists are paranoia, desire for personal recognition and public visibility and profit," he told the news conference. The Warren Commission

found that Kennedy was killed by gunman Lee Harvey Oswald who fired at him from the window of a building overlooking the route of his motorcade through Dallas on Nov. 22, 1963.

Dr. Lundberg said the autopsy could not state who fired the rifle, whether there were shots that missed or whether Oswald worked with organised crime or with the Central Intelligence Agency, all charges made by conspiracy theorists.

Almost three decades later, most American say that they do not believe the Warren Commission or that Oswald acted alone.

The two doctors said there was no evidence of a third bullet striking the president or of one being fired from a direction other than above and behind Kennedy.



British 'gladiator' pulls jumbo jet, claims record

LONDON (R) — A Briton claimed a record for pulling a heavy object Tuesday when he heaved a 196-tonne Jumbo Jet three inches (7.5 cm) across the runway at London's Heathrow Airport. Strapped into a leather harness, Dave Gauder towed the 186-tonne, Air Canada 747-400 — the largest commercial airliner in service — plus 10 tonnes of fuel still on board. "I thought I had met my match but I got some inner strength from somewhere," said 16-stone Gauder, known as the gladiator. "It's just a question of mind over matter." A ladder was bolted to the ground to give him something to push against as he edged the aircraft forward. He needed oxygen afterwards to help him recover. Mr. Gauder, from Birmingham in central England, has already pulled a Concorde aircraft, a U.S. B-52 bomber and a Japanese bullet train.

Japanese living longer

TOKYO (R) — Japanese are living longer, with women outlasting men, Minister of Health and Welfare officials said. The 1990 census showed the average Japanese man lived 75.92 years compared with 81.90 years for women, one official said. That is 1.14 years longer for men and 1.42 years longer for women since the previous national census in 1985, he said. Japanese live longer than anyone else in the world. U.N. figures show women in Sweden lived to 81.57 years old in 1989, and in Switzerland women lived to 80.70, the ministry said. In Sweden men lived to 74.79 according to figures for 1989, and to 74.58 in Iceland according to 1987-88 figures. The increase was probably due to improvements in medical technology and diet, the spokesman said. Latest figures show more than 301 people over 100 live in Tokyo, the largest number of centenarians in any city or prefecture in Japan. Okinawa, Japan's southernmost prefecture, boasts the largest number of people over 100 years old per capita, with 14.59 centenarians for every 100,000 people. The oldest person in Japan is 113, the official said.

S. Africans choose sex, money over democracy fate

JOHANNESBURG (R) — South Africans are more interested in sex and money than the fate of the nation, according to a company which ran a telephone hotline on democracy talks. The "your future is being decided" phone-in service was cancelled after only five days for lack of callers, said Ronnie Graver of the company, International Appeal. "The response was dismal," said. "I thought there would have been greater interest as it affects the country's future." Mr. Graver said the firm's business and sex health lines received 50 times more calls than the 19-party Convention for a Democratic South Africa.

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Diamonds are a working girl's best friend

TOKYO (R) — Tokyo's Diamond Information Centre, believing that it takes more than a recession to keep Japanese women away from diamonds, has unveiled its latest fashion accessory — a diamond-encrusted mobile phone. The phone, sparkling with 1,300 diamonds set in 18-carat gold, is the centrepiece of a "diamond jewellery for working women" promotion in big jewellery shops and department stores. The manufacturers, Nakagawa Jewellery, say they will be happy to sell it to anyone with 100 million yen (about \$770,000) to spare. "One out of two women in Japan aged 20 to 30 now owns diamonds," said Nobuko Ohe of the Diamond Information Centre. "The second or third diamond for these working women must be something practical." Tohru Ohshimo, who designed the telephone.

Records broken at Chinese lucky number auction

HONG KONG (R) — Entrepreneurs in China are happily spending thousands of dollars for lucky telephone numbers that might help them get rich. A rural enterprise has paid a record 129,000 yuan (\$23,450) for the mobile telephone number 901688, the Peking-funded China News Service said.